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VOL. LXI. No. 1

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

OF THE GOVERNOR OF MADRAS

RECEIVED

OFFICIAL REPORT

SECOND SESSION OF THE FOURTH LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT, 1919

Friday, the 11th March 1932

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MADRAS
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PERSONNEL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

Governor of Madras.

His Excellency Lieut.-Col. the Right Hon. Sir GEORGE FREDERICK STANLEY, P.C., G.C.I.E., C.M.G. Took his seat on the 12th November 1929.

Members of the Executive Council.

1. The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur, *Kt.*, Home Member. Took his seat on the 30th March 1925 and is in charge of the following portfolios :—

I.—Provincial Subjects.

1. Police, including Railway Police and C.I.D.
2. Regulation of betting and gambling.
3. Prevention of cruelty to animals.
4. Control of poisons.
5. Control of vehicles.
6. Control of dramatic performances and cinematographs.
7. Control of newspapers, books and printing presses.
8. Laccadives.
9. European vagrancy.
10. European and Anglo-Indian education.
11. Regulation of medical and other professional qualifications and standards.
12. Government Houses, Staff and equipment of His Excellency the Governor.
13. Government Presses.
14. Elections for Indian and Provincial Legislatures.
15. Industrial matters included under the following heads :—
    - (*a*) Factories.
    - (*b*) Settlement of labour disputes.
    - (*c*) Boilers.
    - (*d*) Gas.
    - (*e*) Smoke nuisances.
    - (*f*) Welfare of labour including depressed classes.
16. Criminal tribes.
17. Stores and Stationery (required for Reserved Departments).

II.—Central Subjects.

1. Control of petroleum and explosives.
2. Central police organization.
3. Arms and ammunition.
4. Emigration and immigration.
5. Pilgrimage to the Hedjaz.

2. The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR, *Kt.*, Law Member. Took his seat on the 25th April 1928 and is in charge of the following portfolios :—

I.—Provincial Subjects.

1. Administration of justice, including constitution, powers, maintenance and organization of courts of civil and criminal jurisdiction within the province.
2. Provincial law reports.
3. Administrator-General and Official Trustees.
4. Escheats.
5. Coroners.
6. Treasure-trove.
7. Non-judicial and judicial stamps.
8. Prisons and prisoners.

I.—Provincial Subjects—cont.

9. Industrial matters included under the following head : Electricity, including hydro-electric scheme.
10. Forests (including Cinchona) except panchayat forests.
11. Minor Ports.

II.—Central Subjects.

1. Civil law.
2. Inventions and designs.
3. Copyright.
4. Criminal law.
5. Major Ports.
6. Shipping and navigation.
7. Lighthouses.
8. Port quarantine and marine hospitals.

3. The hon. Sir ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., C.B.E., V.D., I.C.S., Member in charge of Revenue. Took his seat on the 29th June 1929 and is in charge of the following portfolios :—

I.—Provincial Subjects.

1. Land Revenue administration as described under the following heads, namely :—
   - (*a*) Assessment and collection of land revenue.
   - (*b*) Maintenance of land records ; survey for revenue purposes ; records of rights.
   - (*c*) Laws regarding land tenures ; relations of landlords and tenants ; collection of rents.
   - (*d*) Court of Wards, encumbered and attached estates.
   - (*e*) Land improvement and agricultural loans.
   - (*f*) Colonization and disposal of Crown lands.
   - (*g*) Management of Government estates.
   - (*h*) Panchayat forests.
2. Yeomiahs, inams and hereditary pensions.
3. Water-supplies, irrigation and canals, drainage and embankments ; water storage and water power.
4. Inland waterways including shipping and navigation thereon.
5. Economic condition including wages and prices and famine-relief.
6. Land acquisition, excepting notifications under sub-section (1) of section 4 and declarations under sub-section (1) of section 6 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, where the public purpose referred to in the said sub-sections appertains to a transferred subject.
7. Development of mineral resources.
8. Protection of wild birds and animals.
9. Pounds and prevention of cattle trespass.
10. Provincial gazetteers.
11. Agency tracts.
12. Fortnightly reports and preliminary special reports to the Government of India.
13. General service questions.
14. Office procedure.
15. Secretariat.
16. Matters of a general nature not allocated elsewhere.

II.—Central Subjects.

1. Geological survey.
2. Mineral development.
3. Botanical survey.
4. Survey of India.
5. Zoological survey.
6. Meteorology.
7. Census and Statistics.
8. Territorial changes.
9. Immovable property in possession of the Governor-General in Council.
10. All-India services.
11. Public Services Commission.
12. Reforms.

4. The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., Finance Member. Took his seat on the 19th March 1930 and is in charge of the following portfolios :—

I.—Provincial Subjects.

1. Provincial finance.
2. Pensions.
3. Local Fund audit.
4. Preservation and translation of ancient manuscripts.
5. Central Record office.

II.—Central Subjects.

1. (*a*) Defence of India.
   (*b*) Naval and Military works and cantonments.
2. External relations, including naturalization and aliens and pilgrimage beyond India except to the Hedjaz.
3. Relations with States in India.
4. Political charges.
5. Communications.
6. Posts and telegraphs and telephones, including wireless installations.
7. Sources of all-India revenues.
8. Currency and coinage.
9. Public debt of India.
10. Savings banks.
11. Indian Audit Department.
12. Commerce, including Banks and Insurance.
13. Trading Companies and other Associations.
14. Opium (Central questions regarding —).
15. Central Research.
16. Ecclesiastical.
17. Archæology.
18. Regulation of ceremonial titles, orders, precedence and civil uniform.
19. Subjects not allocated elsewhere.

Ministers.

1. The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU, Minister for Local Self-Government. Took his seat on the 27th October 1930 and is in charge of the following portfolios :—

1. Local Self-Government including village panchayats.
2. Medical administration.
3. Public Health and Sanitation and Vital Statistics.
4. Religious and Charitable Endowments.
5. Adulteration of food-stuffs and other articles.
6. Light and Feeder Railways and Tramways within municipal areas.
7. Stores and Stationery (required for Transferred Departments).

2. The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN, Minister for Public Works. Took his seat on the 27th October 1930 and is in charge of the following portfolios :—

1. Agriculture.
2. Civil Veterinary Department.
3. Public Works (Buildings, Roads, Ferries, Rope-ways, etc.).
4. Co-operative Societies.
5. Registration.
6. Weights and Measures.

3. The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR, Minister for Education and Excise. Took his seat on the 27th October 1930 and s in charge of the following portfolios :—

1. Education (other than European and Anglo-Indian education).
2. Excise.
3. Development of Industries.
4. Fisheries.
5. Libraries, Museums and Zoological Gardens.
6. Pilgrimage within British India.

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

President.

The hon. Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi.

Deputy President.

M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur G. Jagannadha Raju Garu.

Panel of Chairmen.

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed.
M.R.Ry. Rao Sahib B. Venkataramayya Nayudu Garu.
,, T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar Avargal.
Mr. F. E. James.

Secretary to the Council.

M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur R. V. Krishna Ayyar Avargal, B.A., M.L.

Assistant Secretary to the Council.

M.R.Ry. D. K. V. Raghava Varma Garu, B.A., B.L.

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Name of member.	Name and class of constituency.
1. Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib Bahadur.	Madras City, Muhammadan Urban.
2. Ahmed Meeran Sahib Bahadur, Moulvi Hafeez Anumanthakudi Mustapha.	Ramnad *cum* Tinnevelly, Muhammadan Rural.
3. Alagannan Chettiyar, Rao Sahib A. S.	Madura, N.-M. Rural.
4. Alamelumangathayaramma, Mrs. K.	NOMINATED.
5. Annamalai Chettiyar, S. A. A.	Nattukottai Nagarathar's Association.
6. Arasu, V. T.	NOMINATED.
7. Ari Gowder, H. B. ..	The Nilgiris, N.-M. Rural.
8. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar, Diwan Bahadur R. N.	Central Districts, Indian Christian.
9. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed Sahib Bahadur.	Central Districts, Muhammadan Rural.
10. Basu Dev, C.	NOMINATED.
11. Bayappa Reddi, P.	Anantapur, N.-M. Rural.
12. Beyabani Sahib Bahadur, S. M. K.	Ceded Districts, Muhammadan Rural.
13. Bhanoji Rao, A. V.	NOMINATED.
14. Birley, Frank	Madras Chamber of Commerce.
15. Campbell, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., C.B.E., V.D., I.C.S., The hon. Sir Archibald.	EX OFFICIO.
16. Davis, O.B.E., J. A.	Anglo-Indian.
17. Devadasan, M.	NOMINATED.
18. Dharmalingam Pillai, Rao Sahib V.	NOMINATED.
19. Duraiswami Reddiyar, K. M.	South Arcot, N.-M. Rural.
20. Ellappa Chettiyar, Diwan Bahadur S.	Salem, N.-M. Rural.
21. Foulkes, R.	NOMINATED.
22. Gopalaswami Mudaliyar, Diwan Bahadur M.	Bellary, N.-M. Rural.
23. Harischandrudu Nayudu, A. ..	Godavari East, N.-M. Rural.
24. Hood, I.C.S., H. M.	NOMINATED.
25. Hutton, A. W.	European.
26. Indrayya, C.	Godavari West, N.-M. Rural.
27. Jagannadha Raju, Rao Bahadur G. (*Deputy President*).	Vizagapatam, N.-M. Rural.
28. Jagannatham, H. M.	NOMINATED.
29. James, F. E.	Madras Planters.

Name of member.	Name and class of constituency.
30. Jayaram Nayudu, Rao Sahib C.	Chingleput, N.-M. Rural.
31. Kesava Ramamurti Nayudu, K.	Cocanada City, N.-M. Urban.
32. Khalif-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur P.	Madura and Trichinopoly *cum* Srirangam, Muhammadan Urban.
33. Kolanda Reddi, Rai Sahib C.	Kistna, N.-M. Rural.
34. Koti Reddi, K.	Cuddapah, N.-M. Rural.
35. Krishnamurti, Rao Sahib D. ..	NOMINATED.
36. Krishnan, C.	NOMINATED.
37. Krishnan Nayar, *Kt.*, The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M.	EX OFFICIO.
38. Krishnaswami Ayyar, *Kt.*, Diwan Bahadur Sir Alladi.	NOMINATED.
39. Kumara Raja of Venkatagiri (Raja Velugoti Sarvagnya Kumara Krishnayachendrula Bahadur Varu).	Nellore, N.-M. Rural.
40. Kumaraswami Reddiyar, The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. (*Minister*).	Tinnevelly, N.-M. Rural.
41. Kuppuswami Choudari, J. ..	Guntur, N.-M. Rural.
42. Lakshmana Reddi, G. ..	Anantapur, N.M.-Rural.
43. Luker, F. G.	Madras Trades Association.
44. Madanagopal Nayudu, R. ..	Madras City, N.-M. Urban.
45. Madhusoodhanan Thangal, P.	NOMINATED.
46. Maharaja of Venkatagiri (Sri Raja Velugoti Sir Govinda Krishna Yachendrula Bahadur Varu, K.C.I.E., Lieutenant-Colonel).	North Central Landholders.
47. Mahboob Ali Baig Sahib Bahadur.	Northern Circars, Muhammadan Rural.
48. Mahmud Schamnad Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur.	South Kanara, Muhammadan Rural.
49. Manikkavelu Nayakar, M. A.	North Arcot, N.-M. Rural.
50. Moidoo Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur T. M.	Malabar, Muhammadan Rural.
51. Moses, P. C.	Northern Districts, Christian.
52. Muhammad Meera Ravuttar Bahadur, K. P. V. S. ..	Madura *cum* Trichinopoly, Muhammadan Rural.
53. Muniswami Nayudu, the hon. Diwan Bahadur B. (*Minister*).	Chittoor, N.-M. Rural.
54. Muniswami Pillai, Rao Sahib V. I.	NOMINATED.
55. Murugappa Chettiyar, Diwan Bahadur A. M. M.	Ramnad, N.-M. Rural.
56. Muthiah Chettiyar, M. A. ..	Southern India Chamber of Commerce.
57. Muthu Chettiyar, P. C. ..	Madura, N.-M. Rural.

Name of member.	Name and class of constituency.
58. Nachiyappa Gounder, K. A. ..	Salem, N.-M. Rural.
59. Nadimuthu Pillai, A. Pl. N. V.	Tanjore N.-M. Rural.
60. Nanjappa Bahadur, Subadar-Major S. A.	NOMINATED.
61. Narasa Reddi, T.	Cuddapah, N.-M. Rural.
62. Narasimhaswami, D. V. ..	Godavari East, N.-M. Rural.
63. Narayanan Nambiyar, V. P.	Malabar, N.-M. Rural.
64. Narayanaswami Pillai, Rao Bahadur T. M.	Trichinopoly, N.-M. Rural.
65. Natesa Mudaliyar, Rao Bahadur C.	Madras City, N.-M. Urban.
66. Palat, R. M.	West Coast Landholders.
67. Pannirselvam, Rao Bahadur A. T.	Tanjore and Trichinopoly *cum* Madura, Christian.
68. Parthasarathi Ayyangar, C. R.	Chittoor, N.-M. Rural.
69. Patnaik Mahasayo, Sriman M. G.	Ganjam, N.-M. Rural.
70. Patro, *Kt.*, Rao Bahadur Sir A. P.	Ganjam, N.-M. Rural.
71. Pattabhiramayya, K.	Kistna, N.-M. Rural.
72. Pattagar of Palayakottai (Rai Bahadur Nallathambi Sarkarai Manradiyar).	Coimbatore, N.-M. Rural.
73. Pocker Sahib Bahadur, B. ..	Malabar, Muhammadan Rural.
74. Premayya, G. R.	NOMINATED.
75. Rajagopala Pillai, P. V. ..	NOMINATED.
76. Raja of Bobbili (Sri Ravu Swetachallapathi Ramakrishna Ranga Rao).	Vizagapatam, N.-M. Rural.
77. Raja of Kallikote (Raja Sri Ramachandra Marda Raja Deo Garu).	Northern Landholders, I.
78. Raja of Parlakimedi (Sri Sri Sri Krishna Chandra Gajapathi Narayana Deo Garu).	Ganjam, N.-M. Rural.
79. Rajan, The hon. Mr. P. T. (*Minister*).	Madura, N.-M. Rural.
80. Ramachandra Padayachi, P. K.	South Arcot, N.-M. Rural.
81. Ramachandra Reddi, The hon. Mr. B. (*President*).	Nellore, N.-M. Rural.
82. Ramakrishna Reddi, A. ..	Kurnool, N.-M. Rural.
83. Ramalingam Chettiyar, Rao Bahadur T. A.	Coimbatore, N.-M. Rural.
84. Ramamurti, Pandit Ganala ..	NOMINATED.
85. Raman Menon, K. P.	Malabar, N.-M. Rural.
86. Ramaswami Ayyar, T. S. ..	Madras University.
87. Ramaswami Mudaliyar, V. M.	North Arcot, N.-M. Rural.
88. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, A. ..	Bellary, N.-M. Rural.
89. Ronganatha Mudaliyar, G. ..	Tanjore, N.-M. Rural.

Name of member.	Name and class of constituency.
90. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, M. D. T.	Tinnevelly *cum* Palamcottah, N.-M. Urban.
91. Rangaswami Reddi, M. B. ..	North Arcot, N.-M. Rural.
92. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar, Diwan Bahadur C. S.	Coimbatore, N.-M. Rural.
93. Sahajananda, Swami A. S. ..	NOMINATED.
94. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti ..	Madras City, N.-M. Urban.
95. Satyanarayana Choudari, C. ..	Guntur, N.-M. Rural.
96. Sesha Reddi, B. P.	Kurnool, N.-M. Rural.
97. Shetty, A. B.	South Kanara, N.-M. Rural.
98. Simhachalam Pantulu, Gade ..	Guntur, N.-M. Rural.
99. Singam Ayyangar, K. ..	Trichinopoly *cum* Srirangam, N.-M. Urban.
100. Siva Raj, N.	NOMINATED.
101. Sivasubrahmanya Ayyar, K. S.	Tanjore, N.-M. Rural.
102. Slater, C.M.G., C.I.E., I.C.S., S.H.	NOMINATED.
103. Smith, C.I.E., I.C.S., E. Conran.	NOMINATED.
104. Soundara Pandian, W. P. A.	NOMINATED.
105. Sreshta, M. S.	West Coast, Christian.
106. Srinivasa Ayyangar, T. C. ..	Ramnad, N.-M. Rural.
107. Srinivasan, Rao Bahadur R. ..	NOMINATED.
108. Sriramulu, G.	NOMINATED.
109. Stokes, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., The hon. Mr. H. G.	EX-OFFICIO.
110. Subbarayan, Dr. P. ..	South Central Landholders.
111. Subrahmanyam Chetti, Rao Sahib P.	NOMINATED.
112. Subrahmanya Bhatt, U. C. ..	Kanara South, N.-M. Rural.
113. Sundara Rao Nayudu, T. ..	Madras City, N.-M. Urban.
114. Syed Tajuddin Sahib Bahadur, Khan Sahib.	Tanjore, Muhammadan.
115. Thomas, Daniel	Ramnad *cum* Tinnevelly, Christian.
116. Thorne, C.I.E., I.C.S., J. A. ..	NOMINATED.
117. Tottenham, C.I.E. I.C.S., G.R.F.	NOMINATED.
118. Usman Sahib Bahadur, *Kt.*, The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed.	EX-OFFICIO.
119. Vasudeva Pillai, V. G. ..	NOMINATED.
120. Vedachala Mudaliyar, M. ..	Chingleput, N.-M. Rural.
121. Venkatarama Ayyar, K. R. ..	Madura City, N.-M. Urban.
122. Venkataramayya Nayudu, Rao Sahib Badeti.	Godavari West, N.-M. Rural.
123. Venugopal Nayudu, Rao Bahadur R. K.	South Arcot, N.-M. Rural.
124. Winter, Captain W. E. ..	Madras Chamber of Commerce.
125. Yahya Ali Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur.	East Coast, Muhammadan Rural.
126. Yakub Hasan Sahib Bahadur,	North Arcot *cum* Chingleput,

Name of member.	Name and class of constituency.
127. Zamindar of Bodinayakkanur (Kamaraja Pandia Nayakar, T. V. K.).	Southern Landholders.
128. Zamindar of Chemudu (Sri Vyricherla Narayana Gajapati Raju).	Vizagapatam City, N.-M. Urban.
129. Zamindar of Ettayapuram (Raja Jaga Veera Rama Kumara Venkateswara Ettappa Nayakar Ayyan).	Tinnevelly, N.-M. Rural.
130. Zamindar of Kirlampudi (Sri Raja Ravu Ramakrishna Ranga Rao).	NOMINATED.
131. Zamindar of Minampalli (K. C. M. Venkatachala Reddiyar).	Trichinopoly, N.-M. Rural.
132. Zamindar of Mirzapuram (Mirzapuram Raja alias Venkataramayya Appa Rao).	Northern Landholders, II.

SPECIAL MEMBERS.

133. Appu Nayar, P.	NOMINATED for the consideration of the Nambudri Bill and the Marumakkattayam Bills.
134. Newcomb, Lieut.-Col. Clive ..	NOMINATED for the consideration of the Bill to amend the Madras Medical Registration Act, 1914.
135. Strathie, I.C.S., D. N. ..	NOMINATED for the consideration of a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Co-operative Societies in the Presidency of Madras.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE GOVERNOR OF MADRAS.

Official Report.

Second Session of the Fourth Legislative Council under the Government of India Act, 1919.

Friday, the 11th March 1932.

The House met at eleven of the clock, Mr. President (the hon. Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi) in the Chair.

PRESENT:

Usman Sahib Bahadur, *Kt.*, The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed.
Krishnan Nayar, *Kt.*, The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M.
Campbell, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., C.B.E., V.D., I.C.S., The hon. Sir Archibald.
Muniswami Nayudu, The hon. Diwan Bahadur B.
Rajan, The hon. Mr. P. T.
Kumaraswami Reddiyar, The hon. Diwan Bahadur S.
Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib Bahadur.
Alamelumangathayaramma, Mrs. K.
Arasu, Mr. V. T.
Arogyaswami Mudaliyar, Diwan Bahadur R. N.
Basheer Ahmed Sayeed Sahib Bahadur.
Basu Dev, Mr. C.
Birley, Mr. F.
Devadasan, Mr. M.
Dharmalingam Pillai, Rao Sahib V.
Ellappa Chettiyar, Diwan Bahadur S.
Gopalaswami Mudaliyar, Diwan Bahadur M.
Hutton, Mr. A. W.
Jagannatham, Mr. H. M.
James, Mr. F. E.
Jayaram Nayudu, Rao Sahib C.
Jones, I.C.S., Mr. C. E.
Kesava Ramamurti Nayudu, Mr. K.
Krishnan, Mr. C.
Luker, Mr. F. G.
Madanagopal Nayudu, Mr. R.
Madhusoodhanan Thangal, Mr. P.
Mahboob Ali Baig Sahib Bahadur.
Mahmud Schamnad Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur.
Manikkavelu Nayakar, Mr. M. A.
Moses, Mr. P. C.
Muniswami Pillai, Rao Sahib V. I.
Muthiah Chettiyar, Mr. M. A.
Nadimuthu Pillai, Mr. A. Pl. N. V.
Nanjappa Bahadur, Subadar-Major S. A.
Narasimhaswami, Mr. D. V.
Narayanan Nambiyar, Mr. V. P.
Narayanaswami Pillai, Rao Bahadur T. M.
Natesa Mudaliyar, Rao Bahadur C.
Palat, Mr. R. M.
Parthasarathi Ayyangar, Mr. C. R.
Patnaik Mahasayo, Sriman M. G.
Patro, Rao Bahadur Sir A. P.
Pocker Sahib Bahadur, B.
Premayya, Mr. G. R.
Rajagopala Pillai, Mr. P. V.
Ramachandra Padayachi, Mr. P. K.
Ramalingam Chettiyar, Rao Bahadur T. A.
Ramamurti, Pandit Ganala.
Ramaswami Mudaliyar, Mr. V. M.
Ranganatha Mudaliyar, Mr. A.
Rangaswami Reddi, Mr. M. B.
Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar, Diwan Bahadur C. S.
Sami Venkatachalam Chetti, Mr.
Shetty, Mr. A. B.
Singam Ayyangar, Mr. K.
Siva Raj, Mr. N.
Slater, C.M.G., C.I.E., I.C.S., Mr. S. H.
Smith, C.I.E., I.C.S., Mr. E. Conran.
Sreshta, Mr. M. S.
Sriramulu, Mr. G.
Subbarayan, Dr. P.
Subrahmanya Bhatt, Mr. U. C.
Sundara Rao Nayudu, Mr. T.
Syed Tajuddin Sahib Bahadur, Khan Sahib.
Thorne, C.I.E., I.C.S., Mr. J. A.
Tottenham, C.I.E., I.C.S., Mr. G. R. F.
Vasudeva Pillai, Mr. V. G.
Venkatarama Ayyar, Mr. K. R.
Winter, Capt. W. E.
Yahya Ali Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur.
Yakub Hasan Sahib Bahadur.
Zamindar of Kirlampudi, The

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS

Education

Proposals of the Director of Public Instruction for medical inspection on improved lines.

*986 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. Shetty: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(*a*) the nature of the proposals made by the Director of Public Instruction for medical inspection on improved lines; and

(*b*) the orders passed by the Government in regard to these proposals?

A.—The Government have not passed orders on the proposals of the Director of Public Instruction and they do not consider that any useful purpose will be served by publishing his proposals at this stage.

Mr. A. B. Shetty:—"May I know, Sir, why no useful purpose will be served by publishing the Director's proposals at this stage?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—"They are still under the consideration of Government."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar:—"May I know, Sir, in what respects the new proposals are an improvement over the existing system?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—"It depends upon what is regarded as 'improvement'."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—"May I know whether the Government is satisfied with the haphazard manner in which the medical inspection in schools is conducted at present?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—"Yes, Government are not quite satisfied with the present system."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar:—"May I know, whether the new proposals, when given effect to, will increase the cost of inspection or decrease it?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—"That is also a matter which is being examined."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—"May I know what is the confidential nature of the proposals which makes it inadvisable to publish them just now?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—"It is still in the stage of a mere proposal from the head of the department to the Government. The Government may or may not accept it."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—"May I know whether the Director of Public Instruction has called the attention of the Government to the unsatisfactory nature of the medical inspection that is being carried on at present?"

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The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—" He has, Sir."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar:—" May I ask, Sir, if the proposal is to get medical inspection done by private medical practitioners or by Government medical practitioners ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—" By Government medical officers when they are available; if they are not available, by private medical practitioners."

Rao Bahadur C. Natesa Mudaliyar:—" May I know, Sir, whether it is fair that Government servants should accept two appointments, one under the Government and another under private bodies? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—" It is not employment under a private body. It is something like having private practice which is allowed under the rules."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—" Is it because the report is very unsatisfactory, Sir, that the Government does not like to publish it? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—" I may tell the hon. Members of the House that the Retrenchment Committee have considered the matter; their proposals also are before the Government and they are also being considered."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar:—" May I know whether the Government will be pleased to refer these proposals to the managers of secondary schools who also contribute a share towards the cost of medical inspection? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—" I do not know which proposal he means, the Director's proposals or those of the Retrenchment Committee."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar:—" I mean the new proposals of the Director of Public Instruction ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—" If it is necessary, perhaps, we shall be able to arrive at a conclusion in the light of the proposals of the Retrenchment Committee even without taking the advice of managers of schools."

Mr. M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar:—" May I know briefly the nature of the proposals ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—" Notice, Sir."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—" May I know if the Government have placed the report before the Advisory Committee on Education ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—" Not before the Advisory Committee."

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Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar:—" May I know whether Government propose to levy any scale of fees for medical inspection ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—" There is a scale of fees already."

Public Works

Erection of the Siruvani Water Scheme Dam.

* 987 *Q.*—Capt. W. E. Winter: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state with reference to question No. 790 answered at the Council meeting, dated the 28th January 1932—

(*a*) when the Government intend to start actual work in connexion with the erection of the Siruvani Water Scheme Dam; and

(*b*) the date of the acceptance by Government of the tender for carrying out the above work?

A.—(*a*) When a tender is accepted and a contract arranged for the work.

(*b*) The Government have not yet accepted a tender.

Capt. W. E. Winter:—" May I know, Sir, whether a tender has since been accepted ? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—" No, Sir."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar:—" May I know, whether tenders have been received by the Chief Engineer ? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—" I have no information on the subject."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar:—" May I ask, Sir, if the new proposals regarding the Siruvani dam involve extra cost over the estimate already made ? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—" We are awaiting the report of the Chief Engineer."

Capt. W. E. Winter:—" May I know, Sir, whether the General Construction Company of Madras have sent their tender and whether that tender has been accepted by Government ? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—" The Government have not yet heard from the Chief Engineer about the tenders and are awaiting his report."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar:—" May I know, Sir, what the hon. Minister means by saying ' tenders have been received ' when I asked about the cost of the dam? I want to know whether he has not already got an estimate of the cost of the dam ? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—" This is a matter primarily concerning Local Self-Government Department."

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Capt. W. E. WINTER :—" May I know, Sir, whether when the tender is accepted, Government will include a clause to the effect that the company should be responsible for starting the work on the specified date ? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN :—" The Government will consider the suggestion of my hon. Friend."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I ask, Sir, whether the estimate has not been already prepared in the Public Works Department ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—" An estimate was originally prepared and subsequently it was revised. With reference to the revised estimate tenders have been called. I think, the revised estimate is certainly higher in cost than the original estimate."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know, whether the acceptance of the tender is left to the Chief Engineer or to the Government ? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN :—" The recommendations of the Chief Engineer on the tenders are sent to the Government and the Government pass orders thereon."

Local Self-Government

Constitution of taluk boards in the Ganjam district.

* 988 *Q.*—Sriman M. G. PATNAIK Mahasayo: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether taluk boards were ordered to be constituted for each of the taluks in the Berhampur subdivision of the Ganjam district;

(*b*) whether all or any of the taluk boards in the Ganjam district were bifurcated; and

(*c*) if any of the taluk boards were not bifurcated, what the reasons are ?

A.—(*a*) No.

(*b*) It is proposed to split up the areas of the Chatrapur and Ghumsur Taluk Boards into two each and that of the Chicacole Taluk Board into three.

(*c*) Financial considerations do not permit of the constitution of a taluk board for each of the revenue taluks in the Berhampur subdivision. The Surada taluk is small and cannot therefore maintain a taluk board. It is therefore proposed to form a single taluk board for Aska and Surada together.

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Land Revenue Administration

Damage by floods in South Arcot.

* 989 *Q.*—Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) what the extent of damage caused is to life and property in the recent floods in South Arcot;

(*b*) what the measures undertaken by the Government are to afford relief to the people in distress;

(*c*) what the amount allotted for the purpose of relief is;

(*d*) what the number is of irrigation tanks affected by the recent floods in South Arcot;

(*e*) whether the tanks damaged have been restored or not; and

(*f*) what the amount allotted for purchase of cattle and of materials for constructing houses for each taluk is?

A.—(*a*) & (*d*) There has been no loss of life or livestock; 41 minor irrigation tanks and 12 Public Works Department tanks breached. There were also breaches in the Vadavar bank and the Budangudi channel.

Crops on about 200 acres in Chidambaram taluk were destroyed by submersion. Paddy and sugarcane crops were affected in Chidambaram and Cuddalore taluks, but the outturn has been fair.

One hundred and forty huts were wholly or partially destroyed.

(*b*) Ten loans amounting to Rs. 395 have been granted for rebuilding houses; 11 applications are still pending. Free grants of timber and leaves valued at Rs. 575 have also been made for the same purpose.

(*c*) No special allotment has been made. The expenditure will be met from the allotment for the district under Loans.

(*e*) The breaches in 36 tanks have been closed. The breaches in the Vadavar were closed by kudimaramat and all the breaches in the Budangudi channel were closed by Government.

(*f*) No amount has been specially allotted for the purpose referred to.

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—" May I ask, Sir, whether the 140 huts which have been partially or wholly destroyed have been replaced and whether Government have rendered any help to the sufferers? "

The hon. Sir ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL:—" The help rendered by Government has been mentioned in the answer to clause (*b*). Whether the huts have been actually rebuilt by this time or not, I have no information, but I have no reason to suppose they have not been."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—" May I ask, Sir, how many of those people who have lost their huts were helped by Government? "

The hon. Sir ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL:—" I must ask for notice of the question."

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Public Service

Nambudri Brahmans in Government service.

* 990 *Q.*—Mr. P. Madhusoodhanan Thangal: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state what the number is of Kerala Brahmans (Nambudris) in Government services?

A.—Government have no information.

Administration of Justice

Alleged irregularities of Mr. K. S. V. Rowji, District Munsif, Tindivanam.

* 991 *Q.*—Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that while Mr. K. S. V. Rowji was presiding over the District Munsif's Court of Madurantakam at Chingleput, a number of complaints were made to the District Judge against his maltreatment of the parties;

(*b*) if so, how many such complaints were received by the District Judge and what action was taken against the said District Munsif;

(*c*) what was the number of petitions filed before the District Judge for transfer of suits from the file of Mr. K. S. V. Rowji while he was presiding over the District Munsif's Court of Madurantakam at Chingleput; and

(*d*) when was the District Munsif of Madurantakam transferred to Tindivanam and for what reasons was he transferred?

A.—Government have no information, but have called for it.

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—" May I know, Sir, whether, when information has since been received? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—" No, Sir."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—" May I know, Sir, whether, when it is received, it will be placed on the table of the House? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—" I shall consider my hon. Friend's suggestion."

Proposal to increase the number of the Honorary Presidency Magistrates in Madras.

* 992 *Q.*—Rao Sahib C. Jayaram Nayudu: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have under their consideration a proposal to increase the number of Honorary Presidency Magistrates in the City of Madras;

(*b*) whether they had at any time considered proposals to increase their number to 150;

(*c*) whether there was any suggestion either from the Commissioner of Police or from the Chief Presidency Magistrate or from the Madras public that there should be at least 150 Honorary Magistrates;

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(*d*) when the Committee, to whom the function of selecting the Honorary Presidency Magistrates has been assigned, met last; and

(*e*) what the number of applications for such honorary posts received was—

(i) by the Government direct,
(ii) by the Chief Presidency Magistrate,
(iii) by the Commissioner of Police,
(iv) by the Collector of Madras,

in 1930 and 1931 respectively, and how many applications were received from women candidates in these years ?

A.—(*a*), (*b*) *&* (*c*) A proposal to increase the number of the Honorary Presidency Magistrates from 100 to 150 was received from the Chief Presidency Magistrate and was sanctioned by Government in June 1931. Both the Commissioner of Police and the Collector of Madras were consulted.

(*d*) The Government have no information but have called for it.

(*e*) (i) No such applications were received by the Government direct during the year 1930. During 1931 six applications were received and they were forwarded to the Chief Presidency Magistrate for necessary action.

(ii), (iii) & (iv) The Government have no information but have called for it.

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan :—" May I know, Sir, what were the reasons put forward by the Chief Presidency Magistrate for increasing the number from 100 to 150? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar :—" Because the number that existed before was found inadequate to cope with the work."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan :—" Was it merely due to the inadequacy of the number or for any other reasons? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar :—" No other reason."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar :—" May I know whether Government have arrived at any final conclusion in regard to the increase in the number? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar :—" If my hon. Friend had read the answer to clauses (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) of the question, probably he would not have put this question. The printed answer says that the proposal has been sanctioned by Government."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan :—" May I know what are the qualifications that are prescribed for a person to be appointed as an Honorary Presidency Magistrate? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar :—" There are no special qualifications, but one must be a man of culture and status in society."

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Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar:—" May I know, Sir, with the increase in the number of Honorary Magistrates, the number of courts also will be proportionately increased? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—" No; the number of courts has not been increased? "

Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar:—" Then, what is the object in increasing the number of Magistrates? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—" Because there are four courts sitting with more than one Magistrate as a bench and in other courts with one Magistrate as a bench. Very often these Magistrates who are honorary officers are absent and unless there is a pretty large number of these officers, it will not be possible to have these benches manned."

Mr. M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar:—" Of the present number, how many are women Honorary Magistrates, Sir? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—" Notice."

B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur:—" So, you increase the work to justify the increase in the number of Magistrates? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—" The work, more or less, remains the same, but as I have already stated these Honorary Magistrates do not always attend office and so, in order that these Benches may always be sitting, the number of Honorary Magistrates has been increased."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar:—" May I know, Sir, what is the extent of relief that is afforded by these Honorary Magistrates to the regular Presidency Magistrates? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—" I do not quite understand the drift of my hon. Friend's question."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar:—" I am only asking for information? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—" I cannot give information unless I understand my hon. Friend's question."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar:—" I just want to know whether the appointment of these Honorary Magistrates will lead to a reduction of the work of the Chief Presidency Magistrate and his colleagues? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—" As a matter of fact, the appointment of these Honorary Magistrates is intended to give relief to the salaried Magistrates."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar:—" In that case, will there be any reduction in the number of these salaried Magistrates? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—" No."

B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur:—" Is it because the Honorary Magistrates are found to be inefficient that the number has to be increased? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—" No, Sir."

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Control of Cinematographs

Constitution and functions of the Board of Film Censors in Madras.

11-15 a.m. * 993 *Q.*—Mr. F. E. JAMES: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the constitution, present membership and functions of the Board of Film Censors in Madras;

(*b*) whether the Board of Censors has power to censor posters as well as films; and

(*c*) if not, whether any steps can be taken to prevent the display of degrading posters?

A.—(*a*) The Board is constituted of the following six members:—

(1) The Commissioner of Police } Ex-officio members.
(2) The Station Staff Officer } Ex-officio members.
(3) M.R.Ry. S. P. Arumainayagam Avargal, Headmaster, St. Paul's High School, Vepery.
(4) Khan Sahib Dr. Jamaluddin Sahib Bahadur, Triplicane.
(5) M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur P. Ranganatham Chetti Garu, Member, Corporation of Madras.
(6) The hon. Diwan Bahadur G. Narayanaswami Chetti Garu, C.I.E.

Nos. (3) to (6) were appointed to be members for one year from the 18th August 1931. The Board is constituted for the purposes of examining and certifying films as suitable for public exhibition in the Madras Presidency.

(*b*) It has no power to censor posters.

(*c*) The suggestion will be considered.

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"May I know what the qualifications of these gentlemen are?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"There is no special qualification, but Government before making these appointments consult various authorities, for instance, the Commissioner of Police, the Director of Public Instruction and the President of the Corporation of Madras."

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR:—"May I request the Government, if possible, to include a lady member to the Board?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"The suggestion of the hon. Member will be considered next time when nominations are made."

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"May I know, Sir, as to who takes the initiative in suggesting names for membership on this Committee? Is it the Commissioner of Police, or do the Government themselves call upon the respective authorities to suggest names?"

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The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"The third gentleman's name has been suggested by the Director of Public Instruction, the fourth by the Commissioner of Police, the fifth by the President of the Madras Corporation and the sixth was nominated by the Government themselves."

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"Sir, I understood the hon. the Home Member to say in reply to the question put by Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan that recommendations are made by the Commissioner of Police and the Director of Public Instruction. May I know, Sir, if the President of the Corporation of Madras also is entitled to recommend names?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I may say for the information of the House that Mr. P. Ranganatham Chetti was recommended by the President of the Madras Corporation."

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"May I know from the hon. Member as to which President it is that recommended his name? This year's President, or the last?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"Last year's President, Mr. P. T. Kumaraswami Chetti, Sir."

Control of Vehicles

Motor cars and motor accidents in the Presidency for the year ending 1931.

* 994 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of private motor cars, cars, lorries and buses plying for hire in Madras city and in each district of this Presidency at the end of 1931 (figures to be given separately);

(*b*) the number of car, lorry and bus accidents in Madras city and in each district of this Presidency in 1931; and

(*c*) the proportion in which the number of accidents in 1931 has increased or decreased as compared with 1930?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) A statement[a] is laid on the table.

(*c*) There is a decrease of 7·3 per cent.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—"May I know from the hon. the Home Member whether the fall in the number of accidents is only in the city or in the mufassal also?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"Everywhere, Sir. The hon. Member will get the necessary information from the appendix of the printed answers."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I know, Sir, whether the staff of Police employed on traffic duty is the same even prior to 1930?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"Yes, Sir."

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[a] Printed as Appendix I on page 76 infra.

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Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—" May I enquire, Sir, whether it is not a fact that, on account of the decrease in the number of motor vehicles, the percentage of accidents has also decreased? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:— " I have already furnished the information in the appendix to the question."

B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur:—" May I ask, Sir, whether it is because so many accidents are left undiscovered that the number has come down? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:— " No, Sir."

Measures for the control and regulation of motor traffic.

* 995 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. Shetty: With reference to the answer given to my question No. 80 on 4th August 1931, will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether Government have taken any further steps for the control and regulation of motor traffic?

A.—The Government have no reason to believe that the steps taken for the control and regulation of motor traffic are not sufficient.

Mr. A. B. Shetty:—" May I know, Sir, the number of constables that are now employed on traffic duty? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:— " I must ask for notice, Sir."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—" May I ask the hon. the Home Member whether the Government have considered it desirable to regulate the timings of motor buses plying for hire? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:— " The suggestion will be considered."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar:—" May I know, Sir, the annual expenditure on the Police employed in traffic regulation in the City of Madras? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:— " The information will be found in the Budget."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar:—" May I know, Sir, considering that in the city of Calcutta such heavy establishments are not maintained, if there is any proposal with the Government for reducing the expenditure incurred on account of Police employed in the regulation of traffic as a measure of retrenchment? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:— " There is no such proposal before the Government."

[For further list of starred questions please see page 26 infra.]

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UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Local Self-Government

Constitution of taluk boards.

996 *Q.*—Mr. A. Pl. N. V. Nadimuthu Pillai: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received representations to the effect that if the Government were to go according to the strict letter of the law and constitute a taluk board for each taluk, great hardship will have to be encountered in view of the low economic depression of certain parts of the Province;

(*b*) whether the Government propose to safeguard the interests of such taluk boards;

(*c*) whether the Government will be pleased to place on the table a list of taluk boards which were given such exceptional treatment;

(*d*) whether the Government will be pleased to state what the reasons are which have guided them in the matter of allowing them as they are;

(*e*) whether the Government have invariably accepted the recommendations submitted by some of the taluk boards that the policy that there should be a taluk board for each taluk need not be given effect to, so far as they are concerned; and

(*f*) whether the Government will be pleased to place on the table a list of the taluk boards proposed to be bifurcated ?

A.—(*a*) No general representation such as that referred to has been received. In individual cases, objections were received mainly on the ground that if a separate taluk board were constituted for each revenue taluk the new board would not be self-supporting.

(*b*) Each case is considered on its merits. In every case in which Government propose to form a new taluk board they satisfy themselves that the board could be made to pay its way.

(*c*) & (*d*) No final decision has yet been arrived at in regard to the splitting up of the areas of the Vizianagram and Bandar Taluk Boards. It is proposed to form a single taluk board for the area comprising the Aska and Surada taluks and to continue the existing jurisdiction of the Berhampur Taluk Board.

Surada is too small a taluk to maintain a taluk board of its own. Financial considerations do not permit of the constitution of a taluk board for each of the revenue taluks in the Berhampur local fund taluk. Government have not so far made any other exception.

(*e*) No. The recommendations were duly considered and the skeleton budgets received from the taluk boards examined before a decision was come to.

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(*f*) A list[a] showing the names of the local fund taluks already ordered to be split up and another showing the names of those proposed to be split up are placed on the table.

Exemption of Viswabrahman pupils from the payment of school fees.

997 *Q*.—Pandit GANALA RAMAMURTI: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received a copy of the resolution passed at the meeting of the Viswakarman Young Men's Literary Association held recently in Rajahmundry, East Godavari district, requesting the Government to exempt the Viswabrahman pupils wholly from the payment of school fees in the Municipal as well as Boards' High Schools in this Presidency; and

(*b*) if so, what action the Government have taken to redress the grievances voiced forth in the said resolution?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) No such resolution has been received.

Land Revenue Administration

Protest by the Pattukkottai Mirasidars' Association against the levy of water-cess.

998 *Q*.—Mr. A. Pl. N. V. NADIMUTHU PILLAI: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any steps have been taken by the Government or the Revenue Board to give effect to the resolutions of the Pattukkottai Taluk Mirasidars' Association that the rate of water-cess proposed to be levied in G.O. No. 1244, dated 8th June 1931, for irrigation of crops in non-deltaic parts with Cauvery water is unbearable and should be reduced;

(*b*) whether the Government are aware that the mirasidars of the several villages in the taluk have sent mahazars to the Special Revenue Officer, Cauvery-Mettur Project, and the hon. the Revenue Member protesting against the levy of the proposed rate of water-cess; and if so, what action has been taken thereon;

(*c*) whether any steps have been taken to classify the lands in the non-deltaic area commanded by the Cauvery-Mettur Project according to the soil so as to fix the water-cess that can possibly be levied for irrigation with Cauvery waters;

(*d*) whether any steps have been taken to ascertain the probable additional yield of the lands of various qualities in the several villages by reason of irrigation with Cauvery water so as to arrive at the proper rate of water-cess that the mirasidar can pay;

(*e*) whether the mirasidars of non-deltaic tracts refuse to take the water if such a high rate of water-cess is levied;

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[a] Printed as Appendix II on pages 76–77 infra.

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(*f*) whether any orders have been passed by the Government in pursuance of G.O. No. 1244, dated 8th June 1931, referred to above;

(*g*) whether the Special Revenue Officer has been asked to take down written statements from mirasidars during 'ayacut hearing' mentioning the proposed rates of water-cess and whether any statements have so been taken;

(*h*) if so, whether the Government are aware that signatures are obtained thereto by the village officers without fully explaining the details contained there;

(*i*) if so, whether a copy of the statement so taken will be placed on the table;

(*j*) whether the mirasidars of several villages refused to sign such statements on account of the heavy rates proposed;

(*k*) whether the Revenue Officials have been directed by the Government to persuade the mirasidars to accept the proposed rates;

(*l*) whether the Government intend to consult this House before passing final orders giving effect to the rates proposed in G.O. No. 1244, dated 8th June 1931, aforesaid, or modifying the same; and

(*m*) whether the Government intend appointing a committee to enquire and report about the several representations made by the mirasidars by their resolutions, mahazars and deputation to the hon. the Revenue Member ?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) All communications received by the Government on the subject have been forwarded to the Board of Revenue for report. The Board's report is awaited.

(*c*) No. The rate of water-cess does not depend upon the classification of the soil. It depends upon the cost of supplying water.

(*d*) No detailed examination has been made for this purpose; but the Government have considered the general nature of the soil of the area.

(*e*) A resolution to this effect has been communicated to the Government by the Pattukottai Taluk Mirasidars' Association.

(*f*) Not yet.

(*g*) & (*k*) The Government have directed that the Special officers should explain to the proprietors and ryots concerned the terms on which irrigation will be permitted, and should endeavour to obtain their concurrence. They have also suggested that it may be desirable to obtain written statements from proprietors and the more important ryots.

(*h*) & (*i*) The Government are not aware that the facts are as suggested in clause (*h*).

(*j*) The Government have not the information.

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(*l*) On 18th August 1924, the Legislative Council adopted a resolution approving the proposal to execute the Cauvery-Mettur Project. The Council had then before it a financial forecast of the scheme showing the rates proposed. The estimates were subsequently revised and a revised financial forecast was supplied to the members of the Legislative Council on 30th April 1928. The rates proposed in G.O. No. 1244, Revenue, dated 8th June 1931, generally follow the rates mentioned in the revised forecast referred to above, and the slight modifications made have been explained in the notification appended to that Government Order. The draft rules were published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* on 16th June 1931. In these circumstances the Government do not propose to consult the House again.

(*m*) No.

[For further unstarred question please see page 32 infra.]

STARRED QUESTIONS

Government Press

Representation of the Adi-Dravidas on the establishment of the Government Press.

* 999 *Q.*—Rao Sahib V. DHARMALINGAM PILLAI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of posts in each of the following grades in the Government Press:—

15—1—20, 20—2—30, 30—2—60, 60—4—100 and 100—5—150;

(*b*) how many posts in each of the above grades are held by the members of the Adi-Dravida community; and

(*c*) whether there are any belonging to the Adi-Dravida community who have passed the Government Technical Examination in proof-reading held in the year 1930, and whose promotion is held up under the Government Order restricting the filling up of permanent appointments that fall vacant on or after the 15th August 1931 owing to retrenchment?

A.—(*a*)

Grade.	Number of posts.
RS.	
15—1—20.	279
20—2—30.	82
30—2—60.	61
60—4—100.	30
100—5—150.	4

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(*b*)

Grade.	Number of posts held by the members of the Adi-Dravida community.
RS.	
15—1—20.	17
20—2—30.	1
30—2—60.	2
60—4—100.	Nil.
100—5—150.	Nil.

(*c*) Yes. One.

Medical Administration

Selection and appointment of House Surgeons and House Physicians in the current year.

* 1000 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. Shetty: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of House Surgeons and the number of House Physicians selected and appointed in the current year;

(*b*) the number that receive allowances among these; and

(*c*) the considerations which determine the selection of the men to be given allowances?

A.—(*a*) 63.

(*b*) 31.

(*c*) Communal representation and suitability as judged by the academic record, character and qualifications of the applicants.

Education

Closure of the child-education section in the Lady Willingdon Training College.

* 1001 *Q.*—Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that when Miss Gordon went on leave in 1930–31 the M.E.S. post of Kindergarten Lecturer was kept in abeyance and a S.E.S. post was created to carry on the work;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that when Miss Gordon went on leave the child-education section was closed after report to the Government;

(*c*) if so, for what reasons was the section closed;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that when Miss Barrie went on leave, the Director reported that her work will be carried on by the substitute proposed by him;

(*e*) if so, what the specific reasons are for closing the child-education section in the Lady Willingdon Training College;

(*f*) whether any report was made or sanction obtained by the department before closure;

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(*g*) whether due notice of the closure of the child-education section in the said college was published for the benefit of the students; if not, why not;

(*h*) whether it is a fact that when Miss Barrie went on leave in 1926 the child-education section was closed and a S.E.S. post was created in lieu of the Kindergarten Lecturer's post;

(*i*) why the same procedure was not followed when Miss Barrie went on leave in 1930; and

(*j*) what the loss to Government is by such failure and who is responsible for the same and how is it going to be recovered?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) & (*c*) It was first reported to the Government that the child-education section was to be closed as no person was available with the necessary qualification to carry out the full duties attached to the post of Kindergarten Lecturer, Teachers' College, Saidapet, held by Miss C. Gordon. But actually the Principal of the College managed to arrange for carrying on the work pending Miss Gordon's return from leave.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) The child-education section was closed for want of qualified lecturers to teach the subject. It was found that the substitute appointed in Miss Barrie's place could not carry on the portion of Miss Barrie's work relating to child education. The retention of the substitute was, however necessary, as a lecturer was required to impart instruction in pedagogy. In the Teachers' College, Saidapet, there are two gazetted posts, whereas for pedagogy and child education there is only one in the Lady Willingdon Training College. The child-education section in the latter college was reopened in July 1931 pending the return of Miss Barrie in the beginning of October.

(*f*) No.

(*g*) It is reported that all students were informed on admission.

(*h*) Yes.

(*i*) Miss Barrie was on leave for three months only in 1926, whereas in 1930–31 she was on about fifteen months' leave.

(*j*) Does not arise in view of the answer to clause (*e*).

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed :—" May I enquire, Sir, with reference to answer to clause (*c*) if the Director had said before the appointment of the substitute for Miss Barrie that the substitute would be able to carry on the work and why was it and how was it that later on it was found that Miss Barrie's substitute could not carry on the work? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar :—" The substitute appointed for Miss Barrie did not have the required qualifications but had some experienece in that kind of work. It was thought that with the aid of her experience she would be able to

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carry on the work; but in actual working it was found that her experience was not adequate and so she could not carry on the work."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—"May I ask, Sir, then why her services were not dispensed with?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—"Her legitimate work was different; she was put to do this work when Miss Barrie went on leave and this work she was not expected to do."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—"Then, may I enquire, Sir, whether this duty was performed by her in addition to her normal duties?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—"She was taken away from her normal duties and placed here."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—"Then, why, Sir, was not she reverted to her original place?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—"There was other work there which she was found competent to perform."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—"May I know, Sir, who was doing that other work?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—"Miss Barrie herself was doing that work."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—"May I ask the hon. Minister for Education what are the qualifications of Miss Gordon?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—"I must ask for notice of that question, Sir."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—"Does she possess any degree, Sir?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—"Notice, Sir."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—"If no sanction was obtained for the closure, how is it that it happened to be closed?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—"I have already said that no sanction was really obtained for closing. Whether that was proper or improper, that is another matter."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—"May I ask, Sir, if there are other persons who are better qualified than Miss Gordon and could fill her place more satisfactorily?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—"No, Sir, as far as my information goes, there is nobody else."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—"May I know why no action was taken for having closed the section without the sanction of the Government?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—" There is no helping it. The only objection was that the orders of Government were not obtained; but the closure itself could not be helped."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—" May I enquire, Sir, as to whether there are not people in the department with English degrees in Kindergarten and other things who may be better ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—" I have already said that there is nobody else with better or even equal qualifications."

B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur:—" Will the hon. Minister make enquiries as to whether any better persons are available?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—" No necessity has arisen for that question. I do not see any necessity for it."

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—" May I know the colour of this lady's gown?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—" I do not think, Sir, that the hon. President would want me to answer about the colour of a lady's gown."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—" May I know, Sir, who is really responsible for closure ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—" The closure was made by the Principal."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—" May I ask, Sir, whether when the Director of Public Instruction said that she could well carry on the work of Miss Barrie, he had no proper idea as to the quality and volume of work expected of her and why is it that later on it was found that her experience was not enough to carry on the work she was expected to do? Why did he not assess her ability properly before he recommended that she should be able to perform her duties?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—" The Director of Public Instruction had some knowledge of her experience and with that it was thought she would be able to get on with her work; but afterwards it was found that her experience was not enough and she was really incompetent to do the work which Miss Barrie was doing."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—" Is it the policy of the Government that they should close certain sections without giving public notice to candidates if the incumbents who are in charge of it go on longer leave and it should be continued if the incumbents go on shorter leave?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—" There is no question of a policy in a matter like that. Each case will be considered on its own merits."

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B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur :—" Does the Government think that it is satisfactory that candidates should be intimated on admission that such and such section is closed and will not be available? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar :—" I do not really understand the question."

Mr. V. T. Arasu :—" On a point of personal explanation, will you allow me to say, Sir, that I am sorry that the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise should be ignorant of the fact that in academic language when one wants to know the colour of an individual's gown, it means that he wants information as to what degree he or she possesses. When I asked the hon. Minister as to what the colour of the . . ."

The hon. the President :—" The hon. Member may have the required information through a supplementary question."

Mr. V. T. Arasu :—" May I ask the hon. the third Minister whether he is aware of the fact that in academic language 'colour of the gown' means academic distinctions or qualifications? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar :—" I do not think this information about the meaning of a phrase could be got from me alone. The hon. Member could get this information easily from other sources."

Fisheries

Abolition of the Fisheries Training Institute.

* 1002 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. Shetty : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have considered the question of abolishing the Fisheries Training Institute as a measure of economy;

(*b*) whether the Government have passed orders stopping further expansion of education among fishermen by providing special schools;

(*c*) whether the existing fisheries schools are staffed with trained teachers and there is scope for the employment of teachers now under training;

(*d*) whether the Government have examined the question if the teachers trained in the ordinary training schools could as well be appointed as teachers in the fisheries schools;

(*e*) whether the fisheries schools possess the necessary equipment to teach the fisheries technique;

(*f*) whether there is any one on the staff of the Fisheries Training Institute competent to teach the teachers undergoing training in the fisheries technique; and

(*g*) whether the Director of Public Instruction has been consulted on the necessity for maintaining a separate training institute for teachers to be employed in the fisheries schools?

A.—(*a*) No.

(*b*) No.

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(c) Yes, with the exception of 22 posts which are held by persons not trained in the Institute. Some at any rate of these will be available for students now under training in the Institute.

(d) Yes. Such teachers may be employed for a period not exceeding six months.

(e) No. The question of providing the schools with necessary equipment is under the consideration of the Director of Fisheries.

(f) Yes. The Headmaster. Subsidiary technical instruction is also given by the Board and Fishery Instructors.

(g) No.

Fish oil and guano factories in South Kanara and Malabar.

* 1003 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. Shetty: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state the number of fish oil and guano factories that are now working in South Kanara and in Malabar?

A.—Twenty-nine fish oil and guano factories worked in the Malabar district during the half-year ending 31st August 1931. No factories worked in South Kanara during this period. Later figures are not available.

UNSTARRED QUESTION

Land Revenue Administration

Conference of the ryotwari landholders of the Tanjore district in re *the revision of kists for fasli* 1341.

1004 *Q.*—Mr. A. Pl. N. V. Nadimuthu Pillai: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether a copy of the resolutions of the conference of the ryotwari landholders of the Tanjore district held at Shiyali on 3rd January 1932 has been communicated to the Government and, if so, what action has been taken to revise the kists for fasli 1341 by reducing the rates by 50 per cent and adopting the pre-settlement rates, postponing the first instalment to March 1932;

(b) whether the Government are prepared to postpone the collection of the January kist to May instead of collecting it in February and March; and

(c) whether the Government are making any arrangements to have the railway freight for grains reduced?

A.—(a) Yes. The Government did not consider that there were adequate grounds for taking action in the manner suggested.

(b) No.

(c) The Government are in correspondence with the Agent of the South Indian Railway in the matter.

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—ADJOURNMENT MOTION *RE* THE CONTINUANCE OF THE REDUCED RATE FOR MOTOR VEHICLES PLYING FOR HIRE.

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—" Mr. President, Sir, I move:

'*Under Standing Order No.* 19, *that the business of the Council be adjourned for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz., the continuation for another year the reduced rate of Rs.* 7-8-0 *per seat for motor vehicles plying for hire under the Motor Vehicles Taxation Act* '."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—" Will the hon. Member tell me how it is urgent and is of recent occurrence."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—" From the answer given by the hon. Minister it is clear that the Government is not going to continue the rate of Rs. 7-8-0 per seat for motor vehicles plying for hire which has been decided for this year and therefore it has become necessary for me to bring this motion because I am afraid that Government is likely to increase the rate from Rs. 7-8-0 to Rs. 10. Hence this is a question of recent importance and the urgency of the matter is that from the 1st April, the rates automatically will be Rs. 10 instead of the existing rate. It is a matter of public importance, because it affects a very great number of people who are engaged in this trade."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—" Mr. President, Sir, I quite remember that the answer I gave to the question is that the question of raising the rates is still under the consideration of the Government. They have not decided to increase it yet. It is not a question to be debated and voted upon unless such an action has been taken."

* Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" Any action that may be taken hereafter by the Government in this direction may be adverse. We have an opportunity through this motion to say how the increased rate will operate on the trade."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—" I do not think that this House can discuss any anticipated action of the Government. Under rule 12 of the Legislative Council Rules, a motion for the adjournment of the business of the Council must be for discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance and one of the restrictions mentioned in rule 12 of the Council Rules is that it must be restricted to a 'specific matter of recent occurrence.' This motion does not relate to any matter of recent occurrence at all, but practically recommends to the Government that a particular policy which they have been following for the last one year should be continued for another year. This recommendation could have been made at any time during the course of the year. Further, under Rule 12 a motion for the adjournment of the business of the Council must not anticipate a matter with reference to which a notice of motion has been previously given. I find that notice has been given of a motion under Demand XXVIII to reduce that grant for the

purpose of discussing this subject-matter. Apart from the fact that during the course of the discussion of demands for grants, no adjournment motion should be allowed except in the case of a grave emergency or for the purpose of checking a recent grievance which, if unchecked, might become irremediable, I hold that this motion does not come within the restriction of rule 12 of the Council Rules ; I therefore disallow it."

III.—THE VOTING OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR 1932–33.

DEMAND I—LAND REVENUE—RESERVED.

* The hon. Sir ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL :—" Mr. President, Sir, I move :

' *That on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs.* 19,05,200 *under Demand I—Land Revenue—Reserved* '."

* Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, I move :

' *That the allotment of Rs.* 19,05,200 *for Land Revenue—Reserved, be reduced by Rs.* 100, *to discuss the question of the Land Revenue policy of the Government* '.

" Sir, the discussion of the Land Revenue policy of the Government is a recurring phenomenon. Every year hon. Members get up in their places and criticize the policy of the Government and ask among other things that instead of the whole question of Land Revenue being under the executive orders, it should be brought under the control of the Legislative Council.

11-30 a.m. " We on this side of the House and hon. Members on the other side have frequently pointed out the Government's unsympathetic policy in the matter of land revenue assessments, and we have also pointed out that Government in fixing settlement rates, and particularly in resettlement, have given no heed to the sufferings of the ryots and have taken no action, even when defects and mistakes in calculating the costs of cultivation, I mean, in arriving at the net half on which the land revenue is based have been pointed out. In fact, Sir, the land revenue figure budgeted for this year is in itself an indication of Government's unsympathetic attitude. For, contrary to ordinary expectations, when it may be expected that the peculiar economic condition of the Presidency this year might lead to a fall in land revenue, you see in the Budget the amount exceeding the figure budgeted, for last year, and the figure of 750 lakhs excludes a sum of 10 lakhs, which is also collected along with the land revenue as cesses and it scarcely comes out of the land.

" I shall now, Sir, make a few remarks concerning the mistakes that have been perpetrated by Government in fixing land revenue assessments and in coming to the conclusions that have been come to with reference to the resettlement, particularly, in the Kistna and the

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Godavaris. My remarks may in the main refer to the resettlement in those districts but many of them are of wide application. Firstly, may I point out that the Government's policy is really to treat land revenue as rent and not as a tax ? The Government of Madras have frequently stated that it is the land that pays the assessment and not the cultivator. In other words, it has no direct concern with the economic condition of the ryot but that it considers that out of land it is entitled to extract a certain sum of money as rent. Now, Sir, I do not think I will be using very strong language, if I characterize this policy as absolutely inhuman. Government do profess indeed to consider the economic position of the people in fixing the land revenue. But I shall show, that although this House and various bodies that have been concerned with this question have been pointing out the many sources of serious error the Government settlement and resettlement parties have made in arriving at settlement and resettlement rates, the Government have turned a deaf ear to this cry. Although we on this side of the House have repeatedly drawn the attention of the hon. the Revenue Member to several points on this behalf, he has not given us an answer to them. And consequently to-day, Sir, many of those difficulties and defects remain unheeded and unremedied. I shall refer to a few points to prove the correctness of my statement. Government, Sir, do profess to make an allowance for the vicissitudes of the seasons. But if we take Government's pronouncements that they do make an allowance and that a satisfactory allowance for the maintenance of the ryot, then may I ask them, what do they do with reference to the famines and seasons of scarcity which come once in series of years, when the ryot gets nothing out of the land ? He loses his cultivation expenses and the costs of the labour, and the most that he gets is a remission of the assessment. If you take a ryot's earnings in a series of years, you must take not only his profits but also his losses. What I ask Government is, do they make any allowance for the serious losses incurred by the ryot in an year of absolute drought and famine? The Government of India went into this question and in one of its pronouncements it has stated that it did recognize that the ryot was put to very serious losses on account of famine. And it stated also that it was able to give nothing by way of relief for these losses, because even a total remission of the assessment would not be sufficient to meet these losses. On the other hand, it laid down the policy that the general level of the assessment should be so fixed that the ryot may be able to make up in a series of years a certain margin of profit that might make up to some extent for these serious losses. Now, Sir, what is the allowance Government makes in its calculation of the ryot's expenses for a case like this?

"Then, Sir, take the question of current fallows. In each of the three districts I have mentioned, and I am sure it is the case in many other districts, there are very large areas of current fallows on which assessment is charged year after year, although ryots practically get nothing out of them. Why the ryot is forced to keep this large area fallow is because the fodder-supply is altogether insufficient to meet the

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requirements of fodder for his cattle. And yet, Sir, Government makes no allowance for current fallows. As I said, the ryot is forced to keep these fallows on account of the fact that he has got to make up something for feeding his cattle. Among other things, Sir, the Members of this House, and particularly the Economic Enquiry Committee, have pointed out that in settlement and resettlement calculations for cultivation expenses Government makes no allowance for the cost of fodder for cattle; and it has been found actually by examination (and the Government has accepted it, as it will be found in the remarks of the Board of Revenue on the question of resettlement) that the present fodder-supply varies from one-third to one-half of the ryot's requirements. So, Sir, how is the ryot going to make up the other two-thirds, if the Government is not going to make any allowance for fodder? Similar remarks apply to the case of manure also and the Board of Revenue has admitted that in those areas the available supply varies from one-fifth to one-tenth of the requirements. Government has been appealed to with regard to this times without number, and yet this point remains still unanswered; and I take it that it is unanswerable. The Economic Enquiry Committee pointed out besides the serious losses the ryots incurred on account of insects, pests and rates. The losses in any one particular year often come to 25 per cent of the entire produce. This, the Economic Enquiry Committee pointed out, but the Government has not given a satisfactory reply. It, however, says that it is covered by their usual allowance of 5 to 10 per cent.

" Then, Sir, the Government of India, in one of its pronouncements, has said that in the matter of agricultural improvements the ryot is entitled to some consideration in having a lower assessment. But the Government of Madras excludes a very large class of improvements from the term " agricultural improvements." I am referring to cases like this. Suppose an irrigation system is brought into being, and the ryot has to spend a very large sum of money in rendering his dry lands fit for cultivation under the irrigation system; or there may be cases of low lands as obtain in the deltas, where the ryots have to put up bunds to prevent the submersion by fresh or salt water as in the Godavari delta. Under such cases a considerable sum of money has to be expended by the ryot, and this is certainly an item of capital expenditure. And how is he to be compensated for these? I think, Sir, the demand of this House is reasonable that capital expenditure of this sort, on account of which Government is able to collect revenue from the ryot, should be taken into consideration in assessing the land revenue and that in such cases the assessment should be fixed at a lower rate.

" Then, Sir, Government has admitted the existence of serious defects in the irrigation and drainage system. I am just now referring to the Godavari delta and my remarks may apply to other systems also. While admitting that there are serious defects, Government has said that it has got a scheme of improvements and that it is going to provide for these works and improvements so as to enable the ryot to surmount the difficulties that he now feels either on account of insufficiency

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of water or on account of damages by floods or drainage. Sir, what do we find in the Budget under this item? Government has provided a small sum for putting up shutters in the Godavari Anicut. And strange to say, it has also provided for considerable expansion of irrigation in the Godavari delta. What will be the net result of this arrangement? The ryot has been clamouring for an improvement in his irrigation supply, and Government is increasing the height of the anicut shutters and is proceeding to expand the irrigation delta. And apart from these, many promises of improvements Government have given to the ryots, and consequent on this large hopes have been raised in their minds. Now Government has, as a matter of fact, failed to carry out its promises in a large measure. Of course, it is pleading that the present financial stringency does not permit of funds being allotted for these necessary improvements. But, Sir, may I ask, is it fair when you admit the difficulties, when you promised to remedy them but did not carry them out, to bring these resettlement rates into force, and then while you are collecting this money, is it fair for you to plead that you have no money to carry out these improvements?

"That is what always happens when resettlement rates are brought 11-45 a.m. into force. The work that ought to have been attended to when the resettlement rates of 1892 were brought into force remains yet to be carried out. While I am about it, may I point out, Sir, that in the recent communiqué of Government concerning the Tanjore delta I find that it is fighting shy of the most vital work required for ameliorating the irrigation work of the Tanjore delta, viz., the solution of the problem of upland drainage? I find that the Government is going to be content with the scheme already settled for diverting the drainage above the Grand Anicut and it is going to do practically nothing for the large amount of water below the Grand Anicut. The experience of last year shows the seriousness of the situation. There is ample evidence from the catastrophies of the previous floods. After all this experience and sufferings of the ryots during the many floods that have devastated the Tanjore delta, Government now come forward to say that they are going to do nothing to solve the problems of the Vennar drainage. It is certainly going to aggravate the situation even with regard to the right bank of the Paminiar. What one would have expected at the least is to proceed with the low level schemes instead of with the high level schemes. It will bring floods to an unprecedented extent. I warn the Government that if they persist in this measure they will soon find themselves in a Court of law. I believe the ryots are already contemplating action against the Government and I warn the Government to reconsider the situation and examine the question of the disposal of the upland drainage in the Vennar delta in a sympathetic spirit.

"Now, Sir, proceeding with the question of resettlement in Kistna and Godavari with which I was dealing, may I point out that one of the most important points on which resettlement is based is the question of prices? First of all, may I point out that the price figures published by Government and on which they base the resettlements

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are certainly very unreliable and Government have admitted their unreliability? For, to begin with, these prices are the averages of producers' and consumers' prices. Take any district—there are rice producing areas and there are non-rice producing areas. What the Government does is to take the prices prevailing all over the district in particular localities. If you take, for instance, the Kistna district, the uplands produce practically no rice and they are purchasers whereas the low lands are the producers. What is the meaning of averaging the prices obtaining in the whole district? It certainly gives you a very misleading figure of prices. As it has been pointed out on other occasions, these price figures are not at all properly checked by any reliable authority. There are some clerks in the taluk offices who prepare them, the tahsildar sends it to the Collector and the Collector passes it on to the Revenue Board. Except when famine is threatened—I am practically quoting the very high authority—I don't think the tahsildar checks these figures. These figures form the basis on which the resettlement is based. Apart from the unreliability of these figures what has Government done in arriving at commutation prices. For instance, it has taken the figures of prices for a series of years when the prices were unusually high. In fact Government's whole system of resettlement does not seem to contemplate the fall in prices at all. What is the meaning, Sir, of averaging the prices of a series of years when there are boom prices and trying to apply the derived figure to a series of subsequent years when prices have fallen phenominally low? At least, Sir, to my common sense it is a stupendous mistake and I feel that Government can really have no answer to this. When prices were at Rs. 300 and Rs. 400 per garisa, those prices are included for getting the average commutation. But now the prices are neighbouring Rs. 140 a garisa. To persist in this is iniquitous and I should have thought that Government should have been convinced by the justice of the claims for sympathetic consideration raised by Members on all sides of the House that Government should have considered our recommendations and that Government should have seen the reasonableness of our contentions and that at least they should do nothing more than postponing the resettlements. But as to what has happened I shall refer a little later.

"Coming to the other point that Government has omitted in their calculation of cultivation expenses I may mention, for instance, that no allowance is made for cattle disease and cattle mortality. Government possess figures of cattle mortality; it can find out what it means to the ryot. A pair of cattle, for instance, costs Rs. 300. Supposing the ryot loses one he loses Rs. 150. Either he must go to the co-operative society which gives short term loans to the ryot which is of no good to him, or he must go to the money-lender and borrow at exhorbitant rates. His margin of profit is so small that he can never recoup it. Certainly in the districts I am referring to, the cattle mortality is something stupendous. We have repeated it on the floor of the House several times but so far Government have made no efforts to seriously consider the question. What it means in money loss to the ryot is something which

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would melt the hardest heart. Let me say from experience that ryots are simply ruined on account of the enormous cattle mortality. Conditions in villages make it impossible to keep the cattle throughout the year in the villages with the result that they are driven out to far off tracts in the Nizam's territories and for every hundred that is driven even fifty do not return. We have furnished Government with figures of the indebtedness of the ryot and they have actually scoffed at us. The Government officer who criticized our report has actually said that these figures of indebtedness are proofs of the ryot's prosperity, of the fact of his ability to borrow. As a matter of fact he is utilizing his reserve to borrow. I think, Sir, I can think of nothing more cynical than a remark of this sort. It is typical of the attitude of the Government with reference to this question of land revenue policy.

"Then, Sir, to return to the point that Government have been making ample allowances to the ryot, why has not the Government the courage to place before the public the statement of figures on which it proceeds in assessing the rates of resettlement rates? The Committee went into the question and had the courage to put forward many of the faults of the Government. I wish the Government had had enough courage to put forward their schedule of cultivation expenses. It proceeds upon figures which are treated as confidential. The settlement officers go to the villages and prepare schedules with definite set of instructions to omit the cost of fodder, to omit the cost of manure, to omit the cost due to cattle mortality, to omit, for instance, the cost of maintenance of carts and other implements, to omit village mamuls and I can go on multiplying the list of omissions. We have pointed these out on the floor of the House several times but so far we have received no reply. May I again ask, Sir, why the Government have not got the courage to place the schedule of cultivation expenses before the public which is a matter of life and death to the ryot? I will challenge the Government to give a statement like that on the basis of which they proceed. I am sure the statement of cultivation expenses would be torn to pieces and would never be accepted by anybody of reasonable men.

"There is another defect, Sir, in this land revenue system. Everything is based on averages, average rainfall, average irrigation supplies, average prices and so on and so forth. May I ask how you can proceed on a system of averages? It is something like telling a man who wants to go by motor car from here to Tanjore when he has got to cross the Palar, the average depth of which is 2 inches whereas in actual crossing there are huge shoals about the middle of the river and deep pits in which possibly several cars would go down and not come up again. These averages are precarious. It is a matter of surprise to me that Government has the courage to calculate on average things and apply it to the whole district.

"It is no wonder, Sir, that while some people may be benefited by the present system of assessment there are large numbers, as pointed out by the Committee, who are hit hard and absolutely ruined. It is 12 noon.

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certainly the heaviest form of taxation in this presidency; of course, the Government does not consider land revenue as a tax but as rent; but view it as you will, compare it with any other tax in this Presidency, compare it with income-tax, you will find that it is ruinously heavy. Land-tax takes half of the net revenue from land. If a ryot gets Rs. 50 the Government comes in to take Rs. 25 out of it, a thing unheard of anywhere else in the world. In all other countries in the world, this antiquated system has been replaced by other more reasonable and humane systems, but our Government takes refuge in the fact that it is merely carrying on the system that obtained here before it came into existence. That, with reference to modern ideals, is no consolation at all. Under your present system, you are grinding the ryot, ruining the people and it is time that you should examine the matter and come to the relief of the suffering ryot population. The Joint Parliamentary Committee, at the time the Montford Reforms were inaugurated, recommended that land revenue should be brought under the control of the Legislature, but so far our Government has refused to take any action in that direction.

" Coming to the question of actual enforcement of the resettlement rates in the Godavaris and Kistna districts, this House passed resolutions and adjournment motions were carried and representations were made to the Revenue Member that these rates shall not be brought into force. Promises were given in this House that the matter would be very carefully considered and that the resettlement rates would not be brought into force unless the Government was perfectly satisfied that the ryot was in a position to pay. Now what has happened? My friend, the Revenue Member, did go on a tour, a Member of the Revenue Board went there, and His Excellency the Governor went there; and we were told in this House that the resettlement rates would not be brought into force unless there was a material increase in the prices of food-grains. I ask the Government whether it has satisfied itself that there has been such a material increase in the prices as to justify the enforcement of the enhanced rates? What becomes of the commutation rates on which you based your figures? The prices of food-grains are the same as obtained 30 years ago. How are you justified in enforcing the resettlement rates under those conditions? It is no use multiplying instances. We in this House have cried ourselves hoarse, not only with reference to the question of resettlement in the Godavaris but also with reference to the general policy of settlements and resettlements and the policy concerning the land revenue administration. Government have turned a deaf ear to those representations. I consider it a very serious matter that there is at present turmoil and unrest in this presidency, and may I point out that the trouble is due more to economic than to political causes? You shut your eyes to these things and the result is misery is turned into discontent; discontent might become seditious and sedition might develop into revolution. You are talking of constitutional remedies, you are promising liberties to the people; these things may or may not materialize in the manner we expect, but you can at least do this, do justice to the ryot population. They have proved their case to the hilt and you have not answered and can never answer them. I may tell Government that it will never be sorry for adopting a sympathetic

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policy, for adopting the policy of conciliation and sympathy that I advise it to follow and, if it does so, it will not only enhance the prosperity of the ryot, but also the good name of the Government by contributing to the happiness and prosperity of the people and helping in the removal of discontent and dissatisfaction."

* Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—" Mr. President, Sir, after the very strong and unassailable case that has been made out against the Government's revenue policy by the hon. the Floor Leader of the Opposition, I see there is not much left for me to say; but I wish to point out that the Government has been asked time after time to make the Members of this House responsible for their land revenue policy, and has asked them to take them into confidence, but the Government has come forward with rather very weak excuses for not bringing in a Revenue Bill or preparing a definite revenue policy for this Province. They are concerned merely with collecting certain amount of money, whether the people are in a position to pay or not. Their primary consideration is to see that the expenses of the State are met somehow; and the first source of revenue being land revenue, they want to squeeze out as much money from the ryot as possible not caring whether he is able to pay or not. The Government is oblivious to its own duties with regard to the ryot himself. It does not give him the necessary encouragement and facilities in order to enable him to pay the revenue that it expects from him. But it goes to him at the time of collection of kists, and gets its money irrespective of the fact whether he is able to pay or not. Then, there is the sword of Damocles hanging over the ryot's head—I mean the resettlement. Whether there is need for resettlement or not, whether there is prosperity in the country or not, resettlement must come and the taxes must be enhanced. That is how the Government carries on its land revenue policy. It is more or less like Shylock and wants to have its pound of flesh, no matter whether the ryot is able to pay or not. It does not even help him in the matter of minor irrigation works; on the other hand it spends large sums on doubtful projects. Under the system of diarchy we expected that a certain amount of power would be given to the representatives of the people. On the other hand they have no voice with regard to even the fundamentals, as regards the rates which ought to be fixed in different parts of the Province. We are here merely to make a show of Parliament and tell the world that the Government of the country is carried on with the consent of the people. The Government taxes as it likes and the people are forced to pay even if they are not in a position to pay. Let us take the example of the recent resettlement that was carried on in the Godavaris and the Kistna districts. The Government in spite of the Economic Enquiry Report and the very good arguments that were advanced for stopping the resettlement process and in the teeth of the vote of this House passed an order that the rates must be enhanced. The Revenue Member, the Board Member in charge of Revenue and His Excellency the Governor went there, but did they really meet the people from whom these taxes are collected ? They saw only such people as the Collector chose to present to them, and these people were not in a position to give them the exact state of affairs. So

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on the information gathered from these people, they came to the decision that the ryots are rich enough to pay the amount of enhanced tax. That is the conclusion arrived at from the enquiry by the three Gentlemen. What is it that the Government has done with regard to the agitation against resettlement and enhancement of rates that was carried on from one end of the district to the other? The Government wanted to suppress it somehow, and it was called political agitation. On the other hand it was purely an economic agitation against a particular act. The Government wanted to suppress it under the name of political agitation because it did not want to hear the appeals made by the ryots against these enhanced rates. There is the Police report that the agitation was for the purpose of refusing payment of rent. As a matter of fact, prominent members of the different associations came forward with a statement that they never asked the people not to pay rent, but that what they were doing was that they were collecting opinions with regard to this matter in order to present it to Government. When such was the case, it was really wrong on the part of the Government to call it a no-rent campaign and take steps to suppress it. And then, Sir, the Government depended entirely on Police reports. The Police have been working under the instructions of the Government of Madras or the instructions of the Government of India or of the Government of England; the Government wanted to create a cause for suppressing the national movement."

Mr. C. Basu Dev:—"I rise to a point of order; the hon. Member is discussing the Police administration under this Grant."

* The hon. the President:—"The hon. Member will wait and hear."

12-15 p.m. Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—"My hon. Friend is always anxious to avoid anything which is said against the Government.

"Mr. President, Sir, I was saying, whether it was on account of the instructions received from the Government of India or from this Government that preparations were being made for suppressing a national movement instead of hearing the grievances of the ryots. The Government called it a political agitation. When cases were launched against the leaders of ryots, we know what happened. They were prosecuted and sent to jails as political suspects and as political agitators. These people when they were tried in courts made statements to the effect that they never asked the ryots to refuse payment of taxes. They never said anything of that kind. They would not say it. But even then the Government did not release them, but prosecuted and sentenced them for long periods of imprisonment. Government have confused the two things, viz., the political agitation and this economic agitation on account of the inability of the people to pay the enhanced taxes. Government have themselves created an occasion for the civil disobedience movement. They have been responsible for the powerful way in which the civil disobedience movement is carried on in some of the districts of this Province, because they have created discontent in the

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minds of a very large number of ryots. To-day the Government say that it was very easy for them to collect taxes. They say that if the tax collector merely went to the doors of the ryots, the taxes readily came without any difficulty. On the other hand, Sir, we know the manner in which the taxes are collected. Subdivisional Officers go to these places with a posse of constables who are ever ready to beat the people and the Police actually terrorize them and taxes are collected, as if it were, at the point of the bayonet. No collections are made without making the people sell everything they have. Not only do they sell their paddy, but they sell their jewels and other things in order to see that they are not molested. It is under such circumstances the taxes are collected. It is not by their free will that taxes are collected from the people. Sir, I ask, is this the proper policy which a Government should adopt ? Will any Government which has an interest in the welfare of their people adopt such a policy and treat the people in the manner in which they are now treating them ? Not only this, Government have also been imprisoning people who expound the cause of ryots that are not able to pay taxes. If a public enquiry were to be held regarding the cruelties which are inflicted upon the poor ryots and the manner in which the Subdivisional Officers and the Police are carrying on their campaign of collection of taxes, a big account may be written. That is the present state of affairs.

" Sir, now we are on the eve of what is called Provincial Autonomy. I do not know whether, even under that Provincial Autonomy, it will be possible for the representatives of the people to have a voice in the fixing of the rates of land revenue assessment in this Province. Any Provincial autonomy which does not give the right to the representatives of the people to fix the land revenue rates is, I am sure, a hollow Provincial Autonomy."

* Mr. A. B. Shetty :—" Sir, year after year it has been pointed out in this House that the incidence of land tax in this Province is comparatively higher than what it is in other Provinces of this country. Seven hundred and fifty-five lakhs out of the total revenue of Rs. 1,593 lakhs is expected to be derived from land in the coming year and the bulk of the agriculturists who pay this revenue are poor and heavily involved in debt. The burden of land revenue presses hard particularly on the small landholder. The Indian Taxation Enquiry Committee has pointed out that there are about 35 lakhs of small holdings in this Province paying an assessment of Rs. 10 or less a year. The Madras Government has paid no heed to the recommendation made by the Taxation Enquiry Committee to give relief to this class of small holders by standardizing the rate of assessment at a comparatively low figure not exceeding 25 per cent of the annual value. The Committee have pointed out that a further share of the profits of the landholder may be taken in the shape of local taxation. This sort of taxation will be less unpopular than any increase of land revenue, because it would be a tax levied for local purposes by local bodies composed mostly of representatives of landed interests. As regards the large holders of land, they have suggested that an income-tax might be levied on agricultural income.

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This is what they do in most of the progressive countries of Europe. The Punjab Government seems to have adopted the proposal of the Taxation Enquiry Committee and fixed the maximum rate of assessment at 25 per cent. I believe, Sir, that in the United Provinces, they have restricted the maximum to 40 per cent of the net assets. In some of the Provinces they have lengthened the period between resettlements from 30 to 40 years, but here in Madras it continues to be 30 years. The Madras Government continues to claim half the net profit as its share.

"Sir, there has been a fall in the prices of food-grains since 1925. There has been a definite drop in the price of paddy, particularly since last year. The ryots will be put to very great difficulty in paying their assessment this time. Most ryots are compelled to sell soon after harvest a large portion of their paddy at a low price to pay their kist. They cannot wait for favourable prices. Many others are driven to the money-lender to get the amount required for paying their dues. This year it will be very difficult for ryots to get loans. At a time of distress like this the Government must come to the rescue of the ryots by granting liberal remissions, by suspension of revenues wherever necessary and also by giving them more time for payment of their kists. Instead of doing this, Government seem to have budgeted for an additional income of one and a half lakhs of rupees from land revenue in the coming year. The Government seem to have made no allowance for short collections in the coming year. They seem to be determined to collect the enhanced resettlement rates in Kistna, Godavari and Malabar.

"I wish to know whether the Government have made any enquiry regarding the fall in the price of paddy. Is it due to the extensions of cultivable area in this Province, or to the larger importation of rice from outside? If it is due to the importation of rice from Burma or Japan, Government will have to see whether they can prohibit the importation of rice from those places. If it is due to the increased production of rice in this Province, the Government must see whether people cannot be made to grow more profitable crops in rotation with paddy. I hope the Government will pay their attention to all these matters and see what they could do to give relief and help to the ryots at a time of distress like this."

* Rao Bahadur T. M. Narayanaswami Pillai:—"Sir, I do not wish to take up the time of the House by covering the same ground which has already been covered by my friends here. But I feel it my duty to voice the opinion of the public that in regard to the policy of resettlement, there are no two opinions in this House. Everybody is agreed that the policy of Government with regard to resettlement is certainly iniquitous and the way in which it is administered is much more iniquitous. There is a cry everywhere for reduction of the resettlement rates. One of the arguments advanced on behalf of Government is that, resettlement being carried on once in 30 years and the ryots having taken advantage of the rise in prices in favourable years, they are not entitled to a reduction even though prices may have fallen during the currency of the settlement.

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They say they have no concern with the present low level of prices ; they say that the ryots must pay the rate fixed at the resettlement—nothing less than that—since he has not given more during favourable years. I am not here to speak of the inhuman character of that argument, but if that argument is open to the Government, it is also equally open to the ryots to say that during the currency of the resettlement period the Government ought not to enhance the rates. I shall now narrate a danger that is threatening our district. A month or two ago draft rules were published in the Gazette providing for the enhancement of the levy of water-cess in regard to lands irrigated under three important channels, viz., Aryan channel, Peru Valai and Srirangam Nattu Vaikal. Of course that notification provides for a further notification to follow in regard to fields irrigated by other channels in the district. Therefore there is no doubt that the Government intend revising the rates which have been fixed at the time of resettlement which was about the year 1925 and to provide for the enhancement of the water-rate. By the way I may mention that the rates of assessment have been notified as Rs. 10 for single crop, Rs. 7-8-0 for a second crop and Rs. 17-8-0 for dufusal, i.e., crops which stand for more than six months. As if this was not sufficient, the rules also provide for the reclassification of the sources. The sources which have been classified as 2 and 3 at the time of the resettlement have been proposed to be raised to first class. Again they also reserve to themselves the right which they do not possess at present, viz., to stop or to discontinue or to alter the mode of supply of water to these fields. Sir, these provisions, as I submitted, define clearly the attitude of the Government ; the Government desire to enhance the rates. These rates are far in excess of the rates now prevailing. I submit this kind of attitude on the part of the Government is not at all just.

"We are faced with a huge economic depression and a fall in prices. 12-30
We are clamouring for a reduction in the present resettlement rates. p.m.
But it is just now that the Government have thought it fit to make rules for fleecing higher rates from us. Even in point of law I believe the Government will not be within their powers in trying to give effect to their proposals. I am sorry I am not able to quote the exact decision, but I am sure there is a very recent decision of the Madras High Court to the effect that once the rates are settled by the Government they have no power to alter them during the currency of the settlement period. Of course there may be a loophole in the notification of the resettlement clause vesting some residuary power in the Government and the Government may take shelter under that clause and say: we have got power according to the resettlement clause to modify the rates. But what I ask the Government is whether, at a time of unprecedented fall in prices like this, they have really made a thorough enquiry into the vital question of whether the ryot can afford to pay the higher rates. What return have they promised the ryots for the higher rates asked of them ? I find no promise of improved irrigation or any other kind of facilities which may be put forward as a justification for the enhanced rates. All of a sudden they come and say: we are going to enhance the water-rates. I do not

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at all understand the motive which has impelled the Government to take this step which I can only characterize as a most ill-advised one. I entreat them not to give effect to their proposals at a time like this. Otherwise, I am sure they will have to face many suits. Already the ryots are organizing themselves and trying to give a reply to the Government's proposals in the manner in which it is open to them. As their representative in this Council I feel it my duty to place before the Government their difficulties and entreat them not to give effect to these proposals.

"The next request that I have to make on behalf of the poor ryots is that the time for the payment of kist should be postponed. In our district the first instalment of kist is payable at the beginning of December, just at a time when the crop is not ripe for harvest. There is a strong wish on the part of the ryots that the first instalment should be postponed to the middle of January, a time when the harvest would have been finished. Also the number of instalments should be increased to at least four if not six. This was one of the specific resolutions passed the other day at a meeting of the District Agricultural Association. I do not think there will be any difficulty on the part of the Government in doing this, for this is not a question of lowering the rates or of asking the Government to give up anything that is due to them. It is only a kind of adjustment which would give relief to the ryots. The practice of paying the kist in four instalments and collecting the first instalment in January prevails in the neighbouring districts and I entreat the hon. the Revenue Member to take steps to introduce this system in my district also. I also request him to increase the number of instalments to six."

* Mr. A. Pl. N. V. Nadimuthu Pillai:—"Mr. President, Sir, in supporting the motion brought forward by my hon. Friend, Mr. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar, I wish to focus the attention of the Government on the present position of the ryot throughout the Presidency and particularly in the districts of Tanjore and Trichinopoly which grow the largest quantity of paddy. I say, Sir, that their condition is deplorable and the policy of the Government, which has not moved its little finger so far towards ameliorating their conditions, deserves severe criticism.

"In spite of the repeated demands Government has not thought fit to bring land revenue settlement under statutory legislation. Without regard to the condition of the ryot and without taking the vote of this House, the Government have been piling taxes on the already overburdened ryot and we have now reached a crisis. It has been stated that the policy of the Government has always been to leave, in fixing the settlement rates, a sufficient margin to protect the cultivators' interests. The strict theory of settlement by which the net profits of cultivation are divided equally between the Government and the ryot is also stated to have undergone very considerable modifications in favour of the cultivator. But how does it work out in practice? Settlement rates have been fixed by a process of commutation on the basis of the average of ryots' prices for twenty years preceding the resettlement. But, when

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the ruling prices go down considerably below the commutation rates and when there is no possibility of the prices going up in the near future, the settlement rates are considered to be inflexible and the Government does not care to revise the assessment or forego a portion of what has been fixed already. The present economic condition of the landlord and the ryot is very deplorable and they are unable to meet even their ordinary obligations, much less the payment of tax. Settlement of land revenue is based on average commutation rates for over a period of 30 years, i.e., an estimate of the average money value of the expected yield of the land during the period in which the settlement is in operation. While such expectation is not realized in the actual prevailing prices, it is but proper that the assessment should be revised and brought down so as not to be unbearable. The hon. the Revenue Member while replying to the general discussion on the floor of this House on 29th February 1932 said: ' that to say that the present prices were lower than that of last commutation rates was not correct.' This statement is evidently based on a misapprehension of the notification appearing in the extraordinary supplement to the *Tanjore District Gazette* for February. The Collector of Tanjore has therein carefully omitted the first half of the year which is the only period to be taken into account while arriving at the ryots' prices, when he has to sell his commodities to pay the kist. Every one is aware that the price of agricultural produce has been very low—far lower than the commutation rates—for some time past and even at such low prices no market can be found and large quantities remain undisposed of. Besides this, the unexpected devastation by the floods of the years 1930 and 1931 and absence of water in the irrigation canals in proper seasons have added immeasurably to the difficulties of the ryots. Both the landlord and the ryot are oppressed by the economic depression and both are in the iron grip of the money-lenders. The present land revenue system is the main cause of their indebtedness. Taxation has been increasing without regard to the profit earned by the ryot. The number of land sales for arrears of land revenue is increasing by leaps and bounds. The welfare of the Government is bound up with the welfare of the ryot but the fact is not realized by the Government. Times out of number the necessity of the Government foregoing a substantial portion of the land revenue or at any rate the necessity of levying kists for 1932 at rates less than those prevailing before the resettlement, have been brought to the notice of the Government by the landholders and the ryots. Nothing appears to have been done till now in that direction. The enhanced rates ought not to be collected until the prices mount up. The conditions in the districts necessitate not only that the enhanced rates should not be collected, but a total revision should be made and the land tax reduced so as to allow at least a fair margin to the cultivator for all his trouble and relieve him from the clutches of the money-lender, the court of law, and finally the Official Receiver. Till such revision is made all collections of land revenue should be stopped at once. Not only the price of produce has decreased, but the value of the land also has fallen on account of the scarcity of money. Ryots have lost credit both on account of the low commodity prices and the low land values. There is a limit to the burden

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which the ryot can bear. If that limit is passed without anybody asking the ryot not to pay taxes, he would himself refuse to pay for the simple reason that he is absolutely impoverished and helpless.

" The hon. the Revenue Member characterized Tanjore district as rich. It was so, but has ceased to be so for some time past. Simply because that district contains a large area of wet lands and shows a green and pleasant atmosphere in certain months of the year, it certainly does not mean that the ryot or the landholder in that district is rich and can afford to pay whatever the Government demands of him. I invite an enquiry into the economic condition of almost every landholder of that district and I am sure that the finding would be that the majority are indebted and that the indebtedness is due to no other cause than this heavy burden of taxation. It is the established practice of the Government to cause a survey to be made into the economic condition of the area proposed to be brought under resettlement. It behoves the Government and it is only just that such an enquiry should be directed when conditions point to the imperative necessity of a revision and a reduction of assessment. The Madras Presidency is the most highly taxed of all the Provinces, and the Tanjore district is one that is taxed most. On the other hand, the soil of the Cauvery Delta has considerably deteriorated and the annual influx of silt to maintain the fertility of the soil has now been cut off, or at any rate diminished, by the Mysore Reservoir.

" The expenses of administration have risen from 8·85 crores in 1918–19 to 18·31 crores in 1930–31. I say, Sir, that this abnormal rise in the expenses should be drastically cut down and the taxation should be reduced to enable the ryot to meet both ends meet. A reduction of land tax by at least 25 per cent, if not more, is absolutely and immediately necessary; else, the situation is sure to become unbearable and unmanageable even by the Government. The Government should further help the ryot by affording him facilities to get proper seeds and to market his commodities advantageously. The attitude of the Government towards the ryot should be sympathetic and when once a ryot is contented he will be the bulwark of any stable Government. I appeal to the Government and to this House to view the matter in a spirit of sympathy and save the ryots from complete annihilation.

* Mr. Kesava Ramamurti Nayudu :—" Mr. President, Sir, I want to confine myself to the policy of the Government with regard to the enhanced assessment rates in the three districts of East Godavari, West Godavari and Kistna. The condition of the ryots in those districts is really very deplorable. Even the previous assessment rates are very oppressive from the standpoint of the present economic condition. The Economic Enquiry Committee also came to the same conclusion. They based their recommendations on the prices then obtaining. They went from village to village and collected materials from all the leading ryots. After a close and first-hand study of the question on the spot they came to certain conclusions which, I am sure, must be correct. But I am sorry that the Government have treated their recommendations with scant courtesy. But worse than this, ever since the Committee reported, there has been a further fall in prices. Of course there may

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occasionally be a flutter in the market now and then, but it subsides as suddenly as it comes. In the last speech I delivered in this House I gave some figures taken from the reports of the Indian Chamber of Commerce. Those figures cannot but be correct, but there is a great disparity between those figures and the figures presented by the Government. I do not think the Chamber of Commerce can be wrong. The hon. the Revenue Member and a Member of the Board of Revenue toured these districts. Many leading men met them and represented the matter to them. They thought that their representations appealed to their sympathetic hearts and concluded that the hon. the Revenue Member would be sympathetic enough not to enforce the enhanced rates. But their expectations were sorely belied. I do not know what has happened to their mentality. The ryot is overburdened already. Perhaps the Government think they can go on oppressing the ryot with ever-increasing burdens because they have the power behind them and can make the ryot obey their orders, however inhuman they be. I do not know how the Government, by adopting this kind of policy towards the ryots, can hope to win their affections. They say they are a very benign Government, their rule is a very beneficent rule and so on.

"But when representations are made to them regarding the difficulties of the people, we meet with cold stone walls unresponsive to our appeals; we come across an icy aloofness. Unless these barriers are pulled down and the channel of sympathy is allowed to flow to the people, I am sure the people will never love this Government.

"Of course there was some talk about the starting of the no-rent campaign. The ryots are a lot of law-abiding people; they are always loyal to the Government; they do not know what rebellion is; they are not like the Russian peasants and workers who will say 'let us burn all the bridges and ladders of the post and raise the red flag of rebellion.' Our ryots always say 'let us be true to our Government; let us honour our King, Country and God.' For all that, the ryot is crushed to the ground. 12-45 p.m.

"I thank the hon. the Revenue Member for his extreme kindness in granting remission to the lanka ryots, and I request him to be kind to the ryots of the Polavaram Island project. It is a land newly brought under cultivation. On account of very heavy floods, many of the bunds were washed away and the ryots were put to heavy losses; they are not able to meet even the cultivation expenses. I myself am a ryot and I know all the details about the Polavaram Island project. I request the hon. the Revenue Member to view their cases very sympathetically and grant them remissions in all the deserving cases. With these few words I support the motion."

* Mr. P. C. Moses:—"Mr. President, Sir, the first question I wish to raise is the policy of the Government in regard to the assignment of lands to the depressed classes. The rules obtaining at present governing such assignments are that the lands which are valued at Rs. 200 and below shall be given to the depressed classes free of price and the lands which are worth more than Rs. 200 are to be sold for market

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value, the cost price to be paid in easy instalments. These earnest efforts of the Government to ameliorate the condition of the depressed classes must be recognized and deeply appreciated. But I wish to point out that these concessions do not go far to help the depressed classes. The land that is worth Rs. 200 is not very productive, and the improvements which are necessary to make the land a profitable source of income, are far beyond the financial capacity of the ordinary member of the depressed classes. Valuable lands also require repairs and improvements and one who buys them shall have to, in one and the same year, meet the expenses of cultivation and of repairs and at the same time pay land taxes and a part of the cost of the land. There are several instances in which the members of depressed classes after paying large amount of money had to give up because they could not pay further. I suggest the value limit of lands which can be given free be raised from Rs. 200 to Rs. 300 and that valuable lands be given for half the market value. If the Government were to say that they have no money and that they cannot help these people, I have no answer to give. But the poverty of the hungry masses and their craving for food are my only brief and—if the welfare of the people is the primary consideration of the Government—I request the Government to extend their hand of help further in the matter of improving the condition of the depressed classes.

"Next, Sir, I wish to refer to the tanks under the control of the taluk boards. Some of these tanks have not been kept in repairs for a number of years; they have ceased to be tanks long ago; although they are passing as such until this day, some of them have not been kept in repairs and they have become very shallow. The level of the tank-bed is not higher than that of the adjoining patta lands and the tanks are no longer supplying water to the people or to the cattle. I went to a village called Ponnekallu, 8 miles from Guntur. The extent of the tank there is about 50 miles. There is not even the semblance of a tank; there is only one bund on one side of the tank; it is full of prickly-pears and there is not even a drop of water. Whenever the members of the depressed classes applied for grant of these lands and whenever the Collector addressed the taluk boards whether they would be willing to relinquish their rights over tank, they promise to repair the tank. They are influenced by the caste ryots—who raise several objections—but nothing has been done so far. I have given only one instance; there are several instances like this. If the Government were to say that specific cases should be brought to the notice of the Collectors, so that the latter may deal with them, I say that that procedure is a very slow process and nothing useful will be done. I request that the Government should take the initiative in the matter and they should themselves press for the conversion of such tanks which are no longer fit to be used as reservoirs of water; the Government would thereby get large income by the sale of the lands and also by way of land tax.

"Before I sit down I wish to say a few words about the encroachments made by the depressed classes on waste lands; they improved

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these lands and no objection was raised then; these encroachments have been made in several instances more than three years ago; these people have not yet received pattas. I request the hon. the Revenue Member to issue instructions for giving pattas to the cultivators so that they may not be troubled by the karnams or other subordinate officers."

* Mr. G. R. PREMAYYA:—"Mr. President, Sir, there is economic depression in almost every country in the world. Our India being an agricultural country, the depression has affected the ryot population very considerably. The price of the land held by the ryot and the prices of grains are abnormally low. While there is an unexpected decline on the credit side, the Government are enhancing the land tax according to the rule. It is therefore quite natural that the ryots should turn to the Government for help and it is but right that the Government should come forward and help the ryots. The cultivators of the land are the backbone of the Government in India; they are the financiers of the Government. Such being the case, the Government must find out ways and means to protect the cultivators. The duty of every Government in the whole world is to protect its ryots. Some hon. Members have said on the floor of the House that the hon. the Revenue Member would be well advised if he postpones payment of the land tax or at least collect it in four, five or six instalments. The invariable reply given by the hon. the Revenue Member was 'no.' That 'no' fell on the ryot population as a thunderbolt from the blue, because they were expecting a favourable reply from him. Nowadays money is very scarce. The ryots do not get good price for their grains; Marwadis and local money-lenders are supposed to be life-blood suckers of the ryots. Therefore the ryots feel it very hard to pay the taxes. Over and above these ordinary taxes, there are some more cesses to be paid, the land-cess, road-cess, education-cess and in some districts railway-cess. All these are legitimate cesses. But the ryots are paying, knowingly or unknowingly, some illegal taxes; they are called jamabandi expenses. Revenue Inspectors and jamabandi clerks compel the karnams and munsifs to collect money for the jamabandi expenses. The karnams and the village munsifs, not realizing the difficulties of the ryots, collect money from these people to meet the jamabandi expenses. I have personally witnessed the village karnams and munsifs struggling hard to satisfy the jamabandi officials; this is an extra burden on the ryots; such a custom should be put an end to immediately; this custom prevails all over the Province and it is gaining ground from year to year. I would therefore strongly request the hon. the Revenue Member to issue strict orders to all the heads of the districts and to all their subordinates to stop this satanic custom.

"I have a few observations to make with regard to the granting of lands. There was a time when some demarcated lands were reserved for the poor people. Before they could take full advantage of the Government Order passed in favour of the poor another Government Order was passed to the effect that the lands, assessed waste, should be sold in public auction. Selling of land by public auction is not at all beneficial to the poor. Some assessed waste lands were granted to

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the societies of the depressed classes. The Government keep very careful records of the number of acres of land granted to the depressed classes. But may I ask the Government what kind of land was granted to the depressed classes? In my tour throughout some districts, I found that the land that was granted to the depressed classes was either sandy, saline, alkaline or marshy or that land was good for nothing. Here and there some land was granted to societies and it is a disafforested area. This land gave some profit to the grantees. As worthless lands were granted to the poor people, it made their condition worse. I think the Government would be well advised if they followed the method of reservation in respect of the grant of hundreds and hundreds of acres for the societies of the depressed classes. A block of 200 to 500 acres may be reserved and poor people may be asked to go and live in these reserved lands. Such reservations may be made on the lines followed for Red Indians in the United States of America.

1 p.m. "There are labour colonies in Belgium, Holland, Germany and Denmark. If any one is sent to those countries and if he is required to have an intimate knowledge of any of those colonies, I think he would make a wonderful Labour Commissioner for the labouring classes of our country.

"As regards minor irrigation, I think I must mention three or four facts before I close my speech. Repairs to canals which are silted up are not made year after year. Such being the case, the waste water which is supposed to run out of outlet is backed up and water becomes stagnant, consequently standing crops die. One thing more I have to mention. In sandy soils all along the sea coast, the ayacuts of the canals will be sandy. These supply channels will feed the crops. The ryots are charged water-tax therefor; but when it comes to a question of repairing, the Government have nothing to do with it. The ryots have to bear the cost; they have to incur large sums of money for the repair of those canals. When the Government charges them water-tax, why not the Government supervise the canals? why not the Government repair the canals, I ask? I believe that the Government reply will be that the canals are dug in Government land. I see the wisdom of such a reply; but when the Government charges tax for water, why not the Government do the repairing? This is a real grievance of the ryots who have been living all along the sea coast. So, I say, Sir, that the depressed classes will be helped a great deal if they are made to live on reservations; and it is the Government's duty to protect the cultivators' rights and help them in these times of sore need."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"To-day being Friday, the House will adjourn now and re-assemble at 3 o'clock."

After Lunch (3 p.m.)

* Mr. M. DEVADASAN:—"Mr. President, Sir, the report on Land Revenue and Settlement gives a glowing account of the administration of Land Revenue in this Presidency. No defects have been disclosed there, and it appears that the taluk and village registers are

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kept satisfactorily, that conferences are held by the Revenue Divisional Officers during the jamabandi season when the grievances of the ryots are being discussed with a view to the redress of the same. This is one side of the case; but the other side of the case is not given in the report. I feel it my duty to make a reference to some of the evils of Revenue administration in this Presidency.

"As we are all aware, Sir, the lowest official in the Revenue administration is the village karnam. It is he who sends his report to the higher officials week after week, month after month, and year after year. It is upon these reports that most of the Revenue Department's orders are based. The village karnam records that certain waste lands have been occupied by somebody and he also records that some lands have been cultivated by somebody or other. The higher officials—such as the tahsildar or the head of the district—believe these reports and do not find out whether they are true or not. They do not care to scrutinize the reports of the village officials. The result is that the ryots have been penalized for what was not done by them. They have been asked to pay penalty for unauthorized use of water or occupation of land when they have not actually done so at all. In cases meriting action on the part of the Government, the penalty imposed is out of all proportion to the action which is attributed to the ryots.

"It also happens that the village karnam records in the village registers that some lands are in the possession of men other than the real owners. He also records in the registers sent to the taluk office that men other than the actual heirs are heirs of some deceased owners. All these things mean some complicated transfer proceedings. In the course of the proceedings, the evidence of the karnam is taken and he gives evidence on either side, with the result that the higher officials are in great difficulty to decide who is the real owner. All these things are due to the fact that much weight is given to the accounts sent by the village officials.

"Further the village karnam encourages and allows certain ryots to use water for dry lands or single crop wet lands, and then reports against them as having used Government water. The result is that the ryots are asked to pay much higher penalty than the actual circumstances of the case warrant. These are all matters which take place in all the districts; but the ryots only feel the actual difficulties. They make appeals to the Revenue officials who pay scant attention to them.

"Another difficulty is that referred to by my hon. Friend, Mr. Premayya, viz., that at the time the jamabandi takes place, the ryots are asked to pay some fees. That may not be the actual case. But the pattas which have to be handed over to the pattadars are not handed over to them then and there. They are taken by the karnam to his house, and he distributes them in return for some remuneration. If such remuneration is not paid, the karnam revenges upon those who refuse the same.

"There is also another difficulty the ryots are subjected to. When there is plenty of water at a particular season, the ryots apply to the

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Revenue officials for permission to use Government water. The applications are kept in abeyance for months together. The poor ryots take Government water and cultivate their land in anticipation of sanction, but at the time of jamabandi, they are highly penalized. The applications which are sent by the ryots are not disposed of in time, and there is unusual delay and slackness on the part of the Revenue officials in the disposal of the applications.

"Yet another peculiar difficulty to which my people are subjected is this. The depressed classes have been occupying certain village sites for generations. The village officials record the village sites in the village register as private nathams belonging to some particular landlord who lives in the neighbourhood. The result is that the landlord sues the poor people for eviction and this goes on for years together, to the grave disappointment and annoyance of the depressed classes. If the village officials do not record in the register that these village-sites are private nathams, then these difficulties will not arise at all.

"Within the short time at my disposal, I want to refer to some of the difficulties and losses which the ryots in Tinnevelly have recently experienced on account of heavy floods. The Revenue officials of the district did not take immediate action to make up for the loss which the ryots had sustained. From the answer to an interpellation I learned that properties belonging both to the Government and to the people were lost to the extent of Rs. 6 lakhs. The banks of the river and tanks breached in several places and it will take two years for restoring the banks. The Revenue officials are already overburdened with other duties, like magisterial duties, etc., and they do not pay proper attention to the needs of the ryots. As a result, we find that much discontent is caused among the ryots. If the officials do not care for the interests of the people and leave them to their fate, then, there is every likelihood of discontent spreading in the minds of the ryots. It is high time that the Government should take proper steps to rectify the defects in the system.

"Before closing my speech, I wish to refer to one other aspect of Land Revenue administration. My friends, Mr. Premayya and Mr. Moses, referred to that. Certain lands have been assigned to the depressed classes and they are cultivating or making use of them. But some of the lands so assigned to the depressed classes are marked as valuable lands long after occupation by the depressed classes and they have been asked to pay heavy value for those lands. Even after the grant of pattas, I hear people have been asked to pay price for the lands on pain of eviction and this works great hardship on the depressed classes. That is why, Sir, I appeal to the hon. the Revenue Member to see that the lands which have been already assigned in favour of the depressed classes are not resumed by the Government and that the depressed classes are not asked to pay any value for the lands which they have already been asked to occupy.

"One more word, Sir, and I shall finish. The ryots are able to cultivate only a portion of a survey number, and they could not cultivate the whole extent of the survey number for want of sufficient water

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facilities. But they are assessed to pay the full revenue for the entire survey field. This point was urged upon the attention of the Government last year and also in the past. But the Government have not paid sufficient heed to it. I now appeal to the hon. the Revenue Member to see that only the portion actually taking the water is made to bear the burden of the tax and that the land which is not cultivated is not burdened with taxation.

" With these words, Sir, I close my speech."

* Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig :—" Mr. President, Sir, I find from the Budget that half of the income of the Province is derived from land revenue, and so it is worth while, I think, to see whether the system by which this revenue is derived is sound. Year after year, Sir, it has been urged on the attention of the Government that the land revenue system obtaining in this Presidency is not only unsound and inequitable, but it is an anachronism and a relic of the past, based perhaps on the erroneous conception of the right of the Government to share the profits of the ryot as landlord. Whatever may be the justification for it, Sir, in the past, it is high time that we changed our angle of vision and take the more enlightened view that taxation is contribution made by the people to the State, in order to meet the expenditure of the State.

" My friend, Mr. Shetty, has rightly referred to the Indian Taxation Enquiry Committee and its recommendations, and I am entirely in agreement with him in accusing the Government for not having adopted the recommendations of that Committee.

" Not only did this Committee, but also the Committee appointed by this House, have condemned the land revenue policy of the Government. 3-15 p.m. So also, the representatives of the people, whether they belong to this side of the House or that side, have condemned the land revenue policy of the Government, not only with regard to resettlement operations but also with regard to the general policy of the revenue system. In spite of all this the Government do not seem to have moved in the matter and it is therefore worth our while to see why the Government are not moving in the matter."

* The hon. the President :—" Order, order. I wish to observe here that the Demand will be put to vote at 3-30 p.m. and the hon. the Revenue Member will require at least 15 minutes for his reply. I therefore advise the hon. Member to close his remarks in a minute."

* Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig :—" I have submitted, Sir, that it is worth our while to inquire into the causes why the Government, in spite of the fact that the Indian Taxation Committee and the Committee appointed by this House as also individual representatives of the people, have all condemned the land revenue system followed by the Government, they have not moved in the matter. The representations made by the people were found to be futile. I, therefore, well-nigh suspect that the reason for the Government not moving in the matter is probably due to the fact that land revenue is a Reserved subject and that the

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people have no hold over the decisions taken by the Government in regard to Reserved subjects. But it is very difficult for us to believe, whether the Government are administering a Reserved subject or a Transferred subject, why they should be so deaf to the recommendations of the people. It may be said, Sir, that as the Government is not confident that in time of need money will be forthcoming as in England where income-tax has poured in at a time of crisis, therefore the Government are not willing to retrace their steps or revise the land revenue system. That only proves—and it is a strong argument in our favour—why we want that Provincial Autonomy must be granted soon, so that the people might realize that it is their own Government and if they are paying any money to Government, they might feel that they are paying to their own Government and the Government will then be amenable to the representatives of the people."

* The hon. Sir Archibald Campbell:—" Mr. President, Sir, my hon. Friend, Mr. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar, and other hon. Members again criticised the land revenue policy of the Government on various grounds. I am afraid they have rather confused the issue, I think, by talking at one time about settlement and referring at the same time to resettlement. There is of course a considerable difference between the two. Resettlement proposals are merely based upon the rise in the value of the produce and the object is to get some share to the Government of the unearned increase in the value of the produce, without taxing in any way the ryots' improvements which may have affected the classification of the soil. The nature of the soil and the costs of cultivation, etc., are taken into consideration at the time of an original settlement. We do not take these things into consideration at the time of resettlement except in so far as may be necessary to enable the Government to make sure that the ryot has not been unduly oppressed by the rates in force hitherto and that he is able to bear the enhanced taxation proposed. My hon. Friend (Mr. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar) stated that the cultivation expenses of the ryot are not taken into account at the time of resettlement. That is true in a sense. We consider the various conditions under which the ryot cultivates his land, but we do not work them out in such details, as is done at the time of the original settlement. My hon. Friend states that the information on this point is treated as confidential, but I cannot see that they are in any way confidential. For example, if we take the Tanjore resettlement proposals which were published, in the paragraph relating to cultivation expenses on wet lands, we find reference is made to the cultivation expenses allowed for at the time of the original settlement. Figures are also given there.

" In an original settlement, a certain provision is made for vicissitudes of season and in addition to that, we provide in the Standing Orders, published by the Board of Revenue under the instructions of Government, for remissions of land revenue in certain cases owing to failure of crop due to seasonal conditions. Under those provisions remissions are ordinarily granted only in the case of wet lands, but in

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special cases remissions are granted in the case of dry lands also. Some times, we grant further remission than the rules permit, as has been done, for instance, in the case of lands damaged by floods in the Tanjore delta a year or so ago.

"My hon. Friend stated that current fallows are charged for, year after year, and that the consequence was that the cattle suffer for want of sufficient fodder. Allowance is made for unproductive portions of fields, such as ridges, channels, small rocks, etc., but if the ryot deliberately leaves his field uncultivated year after year and if he wishes to use it as a grazing ground, there seems to be no reason why the State should be deprived of the tax which would be normally derived from such land if it were cultivated. If, on the other hand, the ryot cultivates that land with fodder crop, he may probably get more fodder than by using it as a grazing ground for his cattle.

"Then, Sir, my hon. Friend is not quite accurate in saying that no allowance is made for manure. I may state that that is definitely provided for as one of the items of cultivation expenses. He also referred to the mortality among cattle and the heavy expenses which the ryot is put to on that account. In the original settlement, it is definitely laid down that the points to be considered in the matter of cultivation expenses include an enquiry into the number of years for which the cattle, ploughs and other agricultural implements will last. As a matter of actual practice, I believe, settlement officers usually take into consideration the rate of hire of cattle. (Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti: What about manure ?) Manure also is allowed for. In the statement relating to cultivation expenses of the ryot, other items such as the cost of ploughing, weeding, sowing, manuring, reaping, threshing, etc., are also taken into consideration; the rules provide for that. My hon. Friend reminds me that he said that no allowance is made for fodder. Straw is usually regarded as a set off against the item 'feed of bullocks', but where cattle are fed on grain and the allowance of straw is not considered sufficient, the item is specially provided for. If my hon. Friend brings to the notice of Government cases in which rules relating to this are not being properly followed, action will be taken at the time the settlement report comes up for criticism.

"My hon. Friend Mr. Shetty suggested that we should reduce the amount of assessment and make it 25 per cent of the yield and that the period between one settlement and another should be raised from 30 to 40 years. As regards the first suggestion, I do not think we take actually as much as 25 per cent of the produce, as so many allowances are made and we have restricted enhancement at resettlement to a maximum of 18¾ per cent. It would be a revolutionary change in our land revenue policy if we raise the period of a settlement from 30 to 40 years.

"That brings me to the criticism which has been again brought against the Government, that in spite of the recommendation of the Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament, this Government have done nothing to introduce a Land Revenue Bill. I have met that charge before in this House. For the past 10 or 12 years, the question of

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introducing a Bill has been very carefully and thoroughly considered in consultation with this House and with the Government of India. I do not think I need go over the same ground that I covered a year ago. As I said last year, we are now on the verge of further Constitutional Reforms and it seems to me desirable that such important measures as a radical change in our land revenue system should be undertaken when you have Provincial Autonomy and you have a responsible Minister in charge of Land Revenue.

"Then, Sir, my hon. Friend referred to the Tanjore resettlement and brought a charge against the Government that certain works which have been promised in 1892 have not yet been carried out. I am not quite sure to what specific works he refers. I am not aware of any definite promise made in 1892 that certain works would be carried out, but it seems that at that time the Government considered the amount spent upon irrigation works and drainage in the district in the past had been inadequate. During the 25 years ending 1918–19 the total expenditure on the Cauvery and Vennar divisions together under the heads 'Capital' and 'Major Works' and 'Major Works'—'Extensions and Improvements' amounted to 27 lakhs and a quarter, or an average annual expenditure of over a lakh of rupees. Under the head 'Major Works—Maintenance and Repairs', the total expenditure for the 24 years ending with 1918–19 was 23½ lakhs, which is equivalent to an average expenditure of a lakh of rupees. So, the total for these two amounted to over two lakhs a year; the average expenditure on new works and repairs was 67 thousand rupees in the ten years previous to the settlement of 1892. I think, Sir, that this shows that considerable effort has been made by Government to improve matters during the period between the settlement of 1892 and the last resettlement. We are not relaxing our efforts even at the present time. . ."

3-30 p.m. * The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Order, order, I will now put the cut motion to the vote of the House. The question is

'*that the allotment of Rs.* 19,05,200 *for Land Revenue be reduced by Rs.* 100'."

The motion was declared lost.

A poll was demanded, and the House divided thus:—

Ayes.

1. Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar.
2. Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar.
3. Mr. M. S. Sreshta.
4. ,, R. M. Palat.
5. ,, D. V. Narasimhaswami.
6. ,, K. Kesava Ramamurti Nayudu.
7. ,, Mahboob Ali Baig.
8. Sriman M. G. Patnaik Mahasayo.
9. Dr. P. Subbarayan.
10. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar.
11. Mr. Yakub Hasan
12. ,, K. R. Venkatarama Ayyar.
13. Rao Bahadur T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar.
14. Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti.
15. Khan Bahadur Mahmud Schamnad Sahib Bahadur.
16. Mr. T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar.
17. Rao Bahadur T. M. Narayanaswami Pillai.
18. Mr. M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar.
19. ,, A. B. Shetty.
20. ,, Abdul Hameed Khan.
21. ,, U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt.
22. ,, A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar.
23. ,, C. R. Parthasarathi Ayyangar.
24. Rao Bahadur C. Natesa Mudaliyar.
25. Khan Bahadur Yahya Ali Sahib Bahadur.
26. Mr. G. Sriramulu.

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Noes.

1. The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur.
2. ,, Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar.
3. ,, Sir Archibald Campbell.
4. ,, Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar.
5. ,, Mr. P. T. Rajan.
6. ,, Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu.
7. Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham.
8. ,, J. A. Thorne.
9. ,, C. E. Jones.
10. ,, R. Madanagopal Nayudu.
11. ,, S. H. Slater.
12. ,, E. Conran Smith.
13. ,, T. Sundara Rao Nayudu.
14. Khan Sahib Syed Tajuddin Sahib Bahadur.
15. Mr. M. Devadasan.
16. ,, N. Siva Raj.
17. Subadar-Major S. A. Nanjappa Bahadur.
18. Mr. P. C. Moses.
19. ,, P. V. Rajagopala Pillai.
20. Rao Sahib V. Dharmalingam Pillai.
21. The Zamindar of Kirlampudi.
22. Pandit Ganala Ramamurti.
23. Mr. M. A. Muthiah Chettiyar.
24. ,, A. W. Hutton.
25. Capt. W. E. Winter.
26. Mr. F. E. James.
27. ,, C. Basu Dev.
28. Diwan Bahadur S. Ellappa Chettiyar.
29. Mr. H. M. Jagannatham.
30. Rao Sahib V. I. Muniswami Pillai.
31. Mr. G. R. Premayya.

Neutrals.

1. Diwan Bahadur M. Gopalaswami Mudaliyar.
2. Mr. M. Vedachala Mudaliyar.

Ayes 26. *Noes* 31. *Neutrals* 2.

The motion was lost.

The Demand was put and carried and the Grant made.

DEMAND II—EXCISE—TRANSFERRED.

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I move—

> ' *that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs.* 31,05,600 *under Demand II—Excise—Transferred* '."

* Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Mr. President, I move, Sir,

> ' *that the Demand under* " *Excise—Transferred* "—*of Rupees* 31,05,600 *be reduced by Rs.* 100, *to discuss the Excise policy of the Government.*'

" The object with which I am moving this motion is to elicit from the Government their policy in this matter, particularly with reference to the question of prohibition. When this question was raised during the general discussion of the Budget, the hon. Minister said that he could not speak on prohibition just then; I feel sure that he will now come out with a clear and definite statement of what his policy is at the present moment. Sir, since the historic resolution regarding prohibition was passed in this Council, all Ministers had referred to this question. But except on one occasion we had spectacles of Ministers fencing with the issue; they have not faced the issue; they never came to this House

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with any definite statement whether they are going to introduce prohibition or not. They left us in doubt as to what their policy was. I shall now put a definite question to the hon. the Excise Minister and I believe the time is very opportune for him to give us a definite answer. Last year we were told that the old old experiment of partial prohibition was being continued, that rationing was being tried somewhere in the Vizagapatam area and that in addition to all that they were carrying on the usual propaganda for prohibition. My hon. Friend, the Minister, told us with a lot of circumlocution, with a lot of words, the meaning of which left us in very serious doubt as to his intentions, that he should first of all prepare the country for prohibition before any measures of real prohibition were introduced. Now, Sir, the propaganda is gone and I congratulate the Government on the courage with which they have abolished this propaganda board, the expenditure on which was entirely uncalled for and which would only give the Minister the opportunity of postponing the day of introducing real prohibition and telling us that the country was not prepared for total prohibition. Every member of the House knows that no country in the world is more prepared for prohibition to-day than India, particularly the Madras Presidency. Everyone knows that the three religions of this Presidency and practically all communities look upon drink as a sin and in any case as a disreputable thing. There may be caste people who do drink. But if one sees how stealthily they go to the shops, after dark with a cloth over their heads to cover their faces so as to make it impossible for people to identify them, one will see the normal stigma that attaches to it. It is looked upon with shame in this country. I repeat, Sir, that there is no excuse for any Minister telling us that he must prepare the country for prohibition before he undertook any measure of prohibition at all. But, Sir, my hon. Friend, the Minister, will rise in his place and say, 'What can I do at a time of great financial strain; the revenue of the Province has gone down by so many lakhs (A voice: 2 crores); we want money for carrying on the administration and we cannot just now propose any measure of prohibition which will have the effect of further reducing the Excise revenue.' On the other hand, I consider the present moment very opportune for taking up prohibition. The revenue has gone down and I do not think it possible that the Excise revenue will go up to the old level. This Government, like other Governments similarly situated, have been forced to adopt measures of retrenchment and have adjusted their expenditure to their revenues and as the Budget shows they have succeeded in balancing their Budget. I do not commit myself upon the correctness of all the measures of retrenchment that have been adopted. I think it does not lie in the mouth of any Minister now to come to us and say that he will not keep the Excise revenue at its present level and that he will allow it to rise. Sir, why should it be allowed to rise? If the Excise revenue shows any signs of rising up, it should be utilized towards prohibition and for increased expenditure towards the furtherance of prohibition. I have already said that all religions of this Presidency are committed to the doctrine of prohibition. I cannot imagine any Minister who has sincere convictions coming to this House and saying that

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measures of total prohibition are difficult to be taken. May I point out to him that he might start prohibition at least as soon as the Excise revenue shows any signs of rising up?

"And, Sir, if really they want more money for prohibition there are ways by which they can obtain it and thus still keep to the principles of Excise administration that have always guided this Government, namely, the principle of minimum consumption and maximum revenue. I wish to give a few suggestions as to the way this can be done. I hope they would appeal to my friend as being suitable and as helpful, if he has got a mind to do so, to enable him to bring in measures of prohibition. I would ask my friend to consider whether the time has not come when he can go in for a further increase in the duty on arrack and also on tree-tax. If he only compares the rates of this Presidency with those obtaining in Bombay he will find that we are far behind Bombay. I am sure the law of Diminishing Return would not operate if he increases the duty on arrack and the tree-tax. Then, Sir, I find the consumption of local beer has increased. It seems to me that here is a legitimate case for increase of duty, if not as a measure of increasing revenue, at least to reduce consumption. Then, Sir, I find that consumption of locally manufactured beer is going up. There ought to be an increase possibly as a means of curtailing the duty on local beer, the licence fees on imported beer being also increased suitably. Then, Sir, I would suggest also that the duty on opium and ganja be similarly increased. I find, for instance, that while the opium revenue has shown a distinct fall, the licence fees on ganja has been showing a tendency to go up. Obviously it is a case where Government should increase the duty on ganja. We do not want to bring into vogue the consumption of opium or ganja, while ostensibly the hon. Minister is engaged—I do not know it is really so—in decreasing the consumption of toddy and arrack. But, Sir, I think it is possible, by increasing the duties, to get a very considerable increase in the excise revenue.

3-45 p.m.

"Then dealing with foreign liquor, I find the Government is still sticking to the old fixed fee system of licence. I think, Sir, the system is most inequitable. Really to be fair to the tax-payer and to the public the fee should depend upon the consumption of foreign liquor. Those firms dealing with foreign liquor should maintain accounts of the quantity of liquor sold and the fee should be charged on the actual quantity of liquor sold. If only Government adopt this system, they will see their revenue from this source mounting up by leaps and bounds.

"The last point I wish to touch upon is the abolition of foreign liquor taverns. As a matter of fact I see very little income from this. I do not think financially the Government will be losing much if they adopt this proposal. I do not personally object to the foreign liquor being sold in sealed bottles. I think nothing will be lost if they close foreign liquor taverns, as a measure of prohibition, as a measure of temperance and as a measure of 'drink Indian liquor' if I may so put it. (Laughter.) It seems to me this is a case eminently fitted for the consideration of any Swadeshi-minded Minister.

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" Now, Sir, concerning establishment: I find Government is proposing to reduce the Excise establishment by one Deputy Commissioner, 6 Inspectors and 2 Assistant or Sub-Inspectors of Excise. I am going in by the provisions as set out in the Budget. I suppose we all agree that some sort of retrenchment may be necessary; but it seems to me, Sir, with this reduction the hon. Minister will say: ' How can I carry on the movement of Prohibition when I have been forced to reduce the establishment? ' I wonder if the hon. Minister did really object to the reduction of the establishment. Only if he had a mind to push through prohibition, he should have fought strenuously against the reduction of establishment. Personally I think that apart from a Deputy Commissioner the work can be carried on efficiently with the other staff. So I don't think we ought to reduce the number of Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors; and, after all, the sum that would be saved is quite inconsiderable. I hope the hon. Minister will not bring forward the plea of reduced establishment as an answer for not taking up prohibition in one or two districts, e.g., Salem and Nellore. My friends in the Nilgiris, Mr. Davis, Mr. Ari Gowder and Mr. Muniswami Pillai have been coming before this House frequently to have prohibition in the Nilgiris. Let Government select one or two districts at least; and if they want money, they can easily find it by adopting the measures I have recommended. If the hon. Minister has a will to do so, he certainly has a way before him; and I hope, Sir, now at least he will come before this House courageously and say that he is still a firm believer in prohibition and that he is prepared to satisfy the almost unanimous opinion expressed by this House that prohibition is a measure that is practicable, and that it is called for immediately to be put into execution. Let us have prohibition at least in one district. I hope my friend, the hon. Minister will give us a clear reply in answer to these demands, and I hope it will be satisfactory to all sections of this House."

* Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar:—" Mr. President, Sir, I share the feelings expresssed by Mr. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar as to whether the hon. Minister intends to do anything at all in this matter. I daresay he will plead that he is subject to many limitations restraining his scope for action—some of them perhaps real and some imaginary. Granting all these things, I wish to know from him what he means to do in the matter of assisting people in their honest endeavours to abstain from using intoxicants. I want to illustrate my point with reference to a particular case, with facts of which he himself is fully familiar. Sir, in the district of Anantapur, I would like to know from him, whether or not an intensive propaganda had been carried on, not merely recently with the aid of the Government grant but for a good many years before that, by the people themselves with their own organizations, to educate the people to abstain from using intoxicants and whether, as a result of that, innumerable petitions had been sent to Government, and deputations waited on influential officers of Government that certain groups of villages at least should be declared dry areas and liquor should not be made available there for the use of people. I wish to know from

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him whether even the District Collector after careful inquiry was not fully satisfied with the genuineness of the demands of the people and of their honest anxiety to put a stop to drink. I want to know whether the people did not wait on him in deputation, whether he also was not satisfied with the desire of the people and whether he did not tell them that their request would meet with his sympathetic and favourable consideration at his hands. I wish to know from him further what was the result of the excise sales in that district? Did not successive sales take place? And is it not a fact that for many shops no bidders came forward? Then, did he not try to get offers by private negotiations, and may I know whether even there, he succeeded? When he found these efforts futile in some cases, what did he do then, Sir? I wish to know, when the last shop in that district was sold, how many months was it after the Abkari year had begun? I wish to know what my friend, the hon. Minister, means, by the methods adopted by him, by the policy he has pursued in the district of Anantapur. Does he or does he not mean to encourage people, at least in their own efforts, to have the liquor shops removed in their areas? I have given a concrete case and I wish to know what he has got to say in the matter, and what he proposes to do hereafter in similar cases."

* Mr. C. R. Parthasarathi Ayyangar :—" Mr. President, Sir, in speaking on this subject I have to say a few words as to the way in which the aspirations of the people to put down drinking have been viewed by Government. I would only refer to the way in which they have been dealing with the people who were working in this movement. Sir, the movement was started under the auspices of the Government, district committees were appointed, and there was also a Central Committee. But when the scheme was put in motion, I know in my own district, the Chittoor district, the Superintendent of Police was dead against it. He would not allow the van to be used for propaganda. He did not stop with this. He had the posters pulled down supplied by the Government for the purpose of carrying on the propaganda. And when a reference was made to the Central Board of the high-handed way in which the Police authorities were dealing with the propaganda people no answer came; and consequently the matter had to be dropped. The poor president had to stand aghast. And I may tell you that the propaganda work that was done in spite of these obstacles was excellent.

" I am speaking from personal knowledge. In my own village these 4 p.m. propaganda committees have been doing good work and there has been a public feeling created. The Indian villager is most amenable to such public opinion. He could be very easily influenced and weaned out. That is exactly the reason why I suppose on the advice of the higher authorities the district propaganda committees have been started. For this very obvious reason, if they had been continued for a few years more, public opinion would have been solidified and it would have been much easier for Government and the Minister to stand up and say ' I am able to say I can carry on the propaganda with success.' Instead of that why should they submit themselves to work against the propaganda? Could they not say, ' We are responsible to public opinion!' Do they forget for the time being that they are the accredited agents of this

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Council? Why should they submit and say ' as others say we also say.' It is because our Ministers are wanting in vitality, because they will not assert themselves, because they will not say this is right whatever the consequences may be that they are in the present position. I know the result of the vote on Excise. We have always been successful for the last few years but this year we are going to be defeated. (A voice: Even last year you were defeated.) It is because the backbone of the Minister is so weak that he cannot resist anything. He has to stiffen himself at least now. Why does he not resign on this issue which will be setting an example for other people to follow? It is because we have no leaders who can visualize and see that by their example people can do things more than they do at present that the Ministers are yielding meekly on such vital questions as excise and land revenue. The policy of Government of closing propaganda is absolutely wrong. The Ministers ought to have said, ' No, we won't agree.' But somehow or other it is out of sight. Mr. Arokiaswami Mudaliyar and others have also suggested that at least one district may be immune from the drink evil. It is no good. Either it is an evil, or it is not. When there is fight between the two, we must say we shall reject the evil and submit ourselves to the consequences. There is no compromise. I would submit that Ministers should go out on such vital questions without sticking to office and say that the determination of the people is so and so and that we are against the evil being perpetuated. There is no use of this lifeless policy. There is no use of both living and dying. We must make up our mind. I dare say that this lifeless dragging on of our existence makes political life disappointing. It makes life not worth living. If you want to continue your existence as Ministers, say so. Otherwise stop this half-hearted existence and help the country by resigning, so that better opinion may prevail and public opinion may solidify itself."

* Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—" On this cut motion I wish to make a few observations. First of all we find that nature to a certain extent and the propaganda that was done by the Congress during the last ten years have come to the rescue of the hon. the Minister. To-day he can come forward and boldly say: " I have, during my regime, been able to show that there has been a reduction of a crore and a half in the Excise revenue." But on the other hand the credit does not go to him, for we find that he has not adopted a policy of prohibition during his regime. It was as a result of the propaganda and the picketing and the way in which the moral and the religious aspect of this evil has been brought home to the people of this Province that we are faced to-day with a reduction of a crore and a half within the course of a year or two in the Excise revenue. The other day the hon. the Finance Member thought fit to say that it was only the economic depression in the Province that was responsible for the reduction of 90 crores of rupees in the Excise revenue during last year. I suppose it is a question of policy with him and with the Government not to give credit to the national movement in the country, the result of which is now shown in the reduction of Excise revenue of such a large sum in one year. The hon. Minister in his speech in replying to the debate in this House made a definite statement

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in regard to his policy. In conclusion he said, 'Whether I shall succeed in making the whole of it dry is more than what I can predict now, because I do not want to make predictions which might prove to be false, but I can give you this assurance that this will be the procedure which the Government will adopt. As regards this policy there need not be any doubt.' He said that he will try to bring about prohibition in one district at least. I wish to know, Sir, what the Government and the hon. Minister have done in order to forward that policy which he has adumbrated last year and whether he has succeeded in making at least one district dry. Of course he may come forward and say that the financial position of the Province has been such that it was impossible for the Government to try even in one district during the course of this year. But that I suppose, Sir, will really be a lame argument. If the Minister is there merely marking time, if he is not in a position to do anything with regard to the subjects placed in his charge, if he is not going to put into practice the policy that he has put forward before himself—if he is not able to do anything I do not know, Sir, why the Minister is there. With regard to the way in which the department is worked, I wish to say, Sir, that it is very very unsatisfactory. He has not reduced the staff to the extent to which he ought to have reduced when he found that such a large sum as a crore and a half had been reduced in the Excise revenue during the last few years. There is not a proportionate reduction in the staff. I find here and there a sort of reduction, a deputy commissioner here and an inspector there. On the whole the same staff continues, whereas the revenue has been considerably reduced. I do not know what will be the answer of the hon. the Minister with regard to this matter.

"Then there are what are called licensing boards. I do not know in whose interests these licensing boards exist, whether they exist in the interests of the spread of the drink evil or whether they exist in order that they might see that the location of toddy and arrack shops are not situated in areas which will be detrimental to the people of the surrounding area. I find in the city of Madras the licensing board has not been able to do anything towards the latter object. They are unapproachable and even though the constitution of the licensing board is to a certain extent such that it has on its membership representatives of temperance associations and the like, yet the constitution of the licensing board is such that the majority consists of people who are interested in increasing the spread of drink evil not only in the city but also in the whole Province. Whether the object of Government is to stick to its present policy, or whether the Government will think of revising the policy in order that the people's voice might be felt so that the location of these shops might be changed from places where they are certainly harmful to those living in the locality, I shall not say at present. I hope the Minister will give a definite reply with regard to the definite questions, viz., whether he has been able to make a definite advance, whether he will see that at least one district becomes dry before

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the year is out and whether he is not going to liberalize the constitution of these licensing boards so much so that the real opinion of the people could be felt in regard to matters that come before it."

* Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti :—" Mr. President, it is not my intention, Sir, to lecture to the Ministers on their duties as Ministers. But it seems to me that the Ministry requires a very severe reminder that they are not there to carry on the policy laid down previously in the matter of the administration of the subjects under their charge but to carry out their policy in the administration. I am afraid that putting that test to these Ministers, they have disappointed many a friend. My hon. Friend, Mr. Kumaraswami Reddiyar, who is now in charge of the Excise department, when he was in this side of the House, as a spokesman of his party, was decidedly in favour of prohibition and insisted upon the Government then in power to carry out that policy. We therefore took that, when he assumed office, sincere attempts to prosecute the policy which he adumbrated while he was in the Opposition will be made. I ask the Minister whether he did anything towards the realization of his objects and previous theories. The hon. Member from Bellary, Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, has mentioned to us the case of the whole district from the Government officers downwards pleading with bended knees before the Minister for introduction of prohibition at least in certain specified areas.

4-15 p.m. " The hon. the Minister was not able to comply with that request. What further proof was necessary to convince the Government? Hitherto it was stated that the people must be ready, they must be educated before any active steps for prohibition could be taken. This Ministry ostensibly for the purpose of introducing prohibition devoted a few lakhs of rupees for propaganda work. Now what is the experience of those who undertook the propaganda work? Mr. Parthasarathi Ayyangar from Chittoor has said that the posters supplied by the Government were torn away by the District Superintendent of Police. Is it a case of Government working against Government? Then, what steps has the Minister taken to prevent that kind of thing? If you advise people not to drink, not to go to the taverns, you are tabooed as coercive picketer and sentenced to imprisonment. Section 144 was very freely used in such cases; and Mr. Parthasarathi Ayyangar had not escaped from the operation of that section. Then, the case of Anantapur seems to be peculiarly unfortunate. The District Collector recommended prohibition in certain areas; the people were ready to take up that policy; bids did not come up for shops; then all sorts of devices were resorted to by the Executive to impose these shops on people who are unwilling to drink. After the shops are opened, it is natural that a few weaklings would be tempted to go there and corrupt the rest of the society. Is this the way to introduce prohibition, to prosecute the policy adumbrated by the Minister when he was in the Opposition and which even now he would not deny is the right policy? It looks as though that what the Ministers are pursuing is merely a policy of wobbling. They want to win the electorate by saying that they are for prohibition, but do not want to take

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any steps towards achieving it. Surely they cannot long be deceiving them. One day the disillusionment must come, and I am afraid it is coming, sooner than later.

" Now, Sir, there was one stock argument of the Ministry, viz., that if prohibition is introduced the revenues would fall and it would be difficult to balance the Budget. Now, the revenues have fallen without any prohibition being introduced, and have not steps been taken to balance the Budget? If only the Ministry adhered to their policy and made the Government departments carry out that policy instead of their carrying out the Government departments' policy, then it would be possible to balance the Budget. If our revenues fall, we must trim our expenditure to suit the times. Therefore, the argument that there is a lot of expenditure to meet should not deter any Ministry from introducing prohibition. At least now, when the time is nearing when they will have to face the electorate, should not some steps be taken to introduce prohibition at least in areas which are ripe for it, and earnestly want to adopt it? "

* Khan Bahadur MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB Bahadur :—" Mr. President, Sir, I am sorry to note that this hon. House does not seem to exhibit much interest in these debates; even the Ministry which is supposed to be responsible for running the show of this Diarchy does not take sufficient interest, because one of the three pillars of the Ministry, I mean the Second Minister, is bodily absent from this House. (Laughter). I am afraid, Sir, in order to rouse the interest of the House, I may have to create a scene playing the part of the drunken abkari officer, because I know some of the abkari officers themselves are the worst sinners in the matter of drinking. However, Sir, I want to know what the Ministers have done or rather the Excise Minister has done to carry out the policy of prohibition. It is generally understood and admitted by Government also that their policy is to attain complete prohibition, though not immediately, at least gradually. They now say they have restricted drink, they have introduced prohibition in certain villages and in certain areas. How long have they been saying this? This excuse has become very stale now; there is no use of saying again that they adopt the same method even now. Cannot they adopt some other method? My object in rising to speak now is to suggest a method which I think will be very effective in attaining the object. Instead of restricting or prohibiting drink in certain areas, I should suggest that they may prohibit drink during certain hours of the day. This method was tried in another country on a former occasion and found it was a splendid success. I refer to the method adopted by Prophet of Arabia who introduced prohibition gradually without much difficulty. That the method adopted by him was successful would be evident from the fact that Arabia, Mespotamia, Egypt, Syria, Turkey and Persia are all even now quite free from drink. The Prophet of Arabia succeeded in making the whole of Arabia dry in the course of ten years. The method adopted by him was this: he first said that people should not come to prayers when drunk; so they had to keep away from

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drink for about an hour before going to prayer; as they had to pray five times, so five hours they had to abstain from drink. When he found that that device so far was successful, he said that they should not drink during day time. After some time when he found that the people had become accustomed to abstention he prohibited drink altogether. His method was very successful, and even now it is a standing monument to his achievement in this respect. So, if the Ministers are really anxious that the country should become dry and that prohibition should be successful, he must adopt methods somewhat similar to those I have mentioned. Instead of that, the Minister says, he has prohibited drink in certain areas, and he will introduce it gradually in other areas also. At this rate it will take not 20 years but 200 years before he can introduce total prohibition. The other excuse is that the fall in revenue will make it difficult for him to run the Government. But I say the House will be resourceful enough to suggest means of finding sufficient revenue to meet the expenditure. He might have trust in this House, when the time comes, for suggesting means of recouping the revenue. I hope therefore the Minister will be good enough to adopt some such method which will be helpful to bring about prohibition in as short a time as possible."

* Mr. YAKUB HASAN :—" Mr. President, Sir, the hon. Sir Archibald Campbell in his reply told us that we should wait for the new Constitution, and that when it comes we can devise a revenue system and collect revenue in the way that we think proper. He practically told us that under the present system the Members of the Executive Council are not responsible to the House. You cannot call upon them to revise their methods; you cannot compel them to do it; you are helpless. He told you that when there will be a Minister in charge of Revenue you could deal with him as you think best. The subject we are now discussing is however in charge of a Minister. Is the Minister going to tell us, 'Though I am responsible to the House and I have got the freedom to do whatever I think best for the good of my country and though I hold certain views in this matter which views are different from those held by European Executive Councillors, still what am I to do; though I am free, still there are Executive Councillors who sit in the Cabinet, and they compel me not to give in to the public demand in the matter of excise; they are forcing my hands; and I am too weak to resist them. At the same time I cannot expose my own helplessness; and so I tell you that prohibition is impossible. You were foolish enough to pass a resolution about it. As long as I was on the Opposition, I, like you, thought that prohibition was good, but now I am a Minister. My opinion is that this Council has made a mistake in passing that resolution. Prohibition cannot be effected; at any rate as long as I am the Minister I am not going to do it.' There is no good camouflaging like this. The speech that he made in this Council on the last Budget occasion—I read it this morning and I felt ashamed that the Minister should come down so much as to make such flimsy excuses depending upon the cleverness of his arguments in order to brush aside the real issue and say something or other by way of reply without committing himself to anything.

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I wish that Ministers would act better than that. If they have difficulties in the way, let them take us into their confidence and show us what the difficulties are. Let them not say 'We have promised to bring about prohibition in twenty years of which six years are gone. Why should we do it piecemeal? What is the hurry? We will bring about prohibition in the 20th year only? That is not the proper way in which you, who are the forerunners of the future Ministry, should set an example to your successors. 4–30 p.m.

"I appeal to the hon. Minister again to be very very careful in the reply that he is going to give us. In my opinion this is the proper time when prohibition can be introduced. The Excise revenues are going down. Last year the fall was 1 crore 20 lakhs. This year it has fallen by 1 crore 40 lakhs. In two years it has come down to Rs. 2,60,00,000. What is the reason for this fall of revenue? The reason is that a large number of people have not got enough even to eat, and so they do not drink. But still there are people who are addicted to drink, who would rather starve, but spend the money in drinking. They would rather make their wives and children starve but spend away whatever money they earn in drink. They would rather do all this than deny themselves the happiness of drinking a pot of some intoxicant or other. We know that poorer class of people are addicted more to drinking than the richer class of people. So, if you introduce prohibition now, you will be really doing some service to the people especially at a time of great depression when they want your help in diverting to domestic use the money which would otherwise go for the purchase of wines or liquors. You have lost a revenue of 2 crores and 60 lakhs in two years. Can you not make up your mind to lose a little more by introducing prohibition in two or three districts? You have effected some savings by making retrenchments in several departments. Can you not make use of that savings for covering the expenditure which will be caused by introducing prohibition? Surely some way can be found if only there is a will. I hope the hon. Minister will now at least turn a new leaf and assure us that, as far as he is concerned, he means to do something practical in the course of a year in this direction."

* Mr. G. R. Premayya:—"Sir, in the third Council of this Legislature the Excise policy adopted was that the country should go dry within 20 years, that is to say, that within that period prohibition should be introduced in one district after another until in a period of 20 years the whole country has become dry. With this object in mind the hon. Minister of the third Council with the support of all the Members of this House recognized the principle that we ought to have complete prohibition after 20 years. Now it appears that 20 years time is an act of the past. It appears that the hon. Minister in charge is not going to follow this 20 years plan. Arguments may be advanced against prohibition saying that it would be very difficult to make the country dry. Sir, if you go back and study our Indian History you will find that our Indian leaders with the help of the British Government abolished Sati. They drove it completely out of India and also infanticide. Of late there was a legislation here in this Council to stop immoral

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traffic. That was passed and nobody objected to it and it has been given effect to. After some time it will be an act of the past. When people are ready to vote for legislation of that kind, why not we try this method of prohibition?

" Now this drink evil is a dangerous devil and it spoils almost all the people of our country. If all of us are sincere and wish to drive this devil out of India, why should we still keep it on lurking in our Province without doing anything tangible? To clean America off slavery, Abraham Lincoln had to give up his life. Can we find one good soul in our country to sacrifice for the liberation of our people from drink evil? Here is a voice to say that there is Mr. Gandhi. Our dear wisest Gandhi does not drink. But he never made a bold attempt to drive this drink evil out of India. He is a man who fights for Swaraj. He does not fight for drink evil. That is my answer to the one who interrupted me.

" I stated at the time of the general discussion of the Budget that people of this country are manufacturing contraband liquor. The hon. Minister in his reply to the Budget speech did not say much as to how he was going to combat this evil. Now, people are finding various means to manufacture contraband liquor. I think after some time it will be quite a difficult job for the Government to stop it. Although the department is making feeble attempts to stop it, unless they make more vigorous attempts, they cannot succeed.

" If the hon. Minister is not going to make an attempt to stop this manufacture of illicit liquor and unless he gives us a clear assurance that he is going to follow his old policy of prohibition within 20 years, I am going to vote this Demand down. I want complete prohibition to be introduced within 20 years. I wish that that millennium should dawn on our people sooner or later."

* Diwan Bahadur M. Gopalaswami Mudaliyar:—" I am in this fortunate position, that is to say, I am a new comer to this Council. I am not tied down by any pledges that were made in this Council. It is all very easy to talk of prohibition. I do not think there is any one in this House, whether he is an agnostic or atheist or a religious person, who does not want that there should be total prohibition. Everybody—man, woman and child—who has got any self-respect in him and who has the advancement of this country at heart, wants that the country should go dry and everybody is agreed that this devil of drink should be driven out of this country. The only question is how it is to be done. From the remarks made by my hon. Friend, Mr. Schamnad, I wish to know whether the method which, he says, was adopted in Arabia was successful in achieving the desired results. I would like to be further enlightened on that point. I would also like to know as to what exactly the number of date and palmyra trees that are to be found in Arabia, and the number of coconut trees that are to be found there. I would like to have this information in order to come to the conclusion whether it would be possible for the Government in this country, where there are so many trees available from which the intoxicating liquors can

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be extracted, to cut down those trees in order merely to prevent people from tapping these trees for getting liquor. That is the piece of information that I would like to have from my hon. Friend, Mr. Schamnad. If, as a matter of fact, that country abounds, as India does, or at any rate as Southern India does, in coconut and palmyra trees, and if in spite of that fact, the Government there have been able to put down the drink evil and the people there have been able to resist their temptation for drinking the juice made out of these various trees, that would be certainly a very interesting point for this House to know. I am sure the hon. Member will help us by giving this information so that we may also solve the problem of prohibition in this Province.

" Sir, I do not think there is anybody in this country who is against prohibition, but the only question is how that object is to be achieved. Is it possible in the present state of our finances to vote down this Demand? Is it possible for us to lose the revenue that is derived from this source by voting down this Demand? Even if we do that, can we supplement that cut by getting our income from some other source? Is there any constructive proposal put forward in order to see that the amount which we can vote down is replaced by some other way? If we can do that and if any constructive proposal has been placed before the House by the Retrenchment Committee which has been exploring the various avenues of income and expenditure in this Province, I for one would be very glad to accept the proposal and certainly vote down the whole Demand under Excise. For one moment supposing you vote down this Demand, then certainly you will have to find another source of income in order to replace it. If that is done, I am afraid the nation-building departments, viz., the Local Self-Government and other departments will have to suffer. The villagers will be put to serious trouble. They will have no wells, no schools and no roads. As a practical man and especially as one coming from a famine area, I think in the present state of our finances, in the present state of our economic stringency, we cannot have prohibition.

" There is one other thing which I want to touch upon. During the time of the last Ministry, a meagre attempt was made in connexion with this prohibition policy. Hon. Members of this House must be aware that an attempt was made in order to put down this drink by an allotment of Rs. 8 lakhs by creating what are known as the Temperance Propaganda Committees. I think one cannot think of a more wasteful expenditure than that. I am very much pleased indeed that the present Minister has cut down that item of expenditure. The motor cars which went from place to place did nothing except carrying bundles of pamphlets and throwing them before the villagers. The persons employed in that connexion did absolutely nothing. On the other hand it was more an incentive and encouragement to drink rather than an instrument to put down drink. I am glad—I think it must at least be said to the credit of the hon. Minister—that he asserted himself and came to a different conclusion and stopped this propaganda and thereby saved 8 lakhs of rupees which will certainly be offered to other nation-building departments.

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4-45 p.m. "I have got only one grievance with regard to this matter, and that is that the vans which were purchased for this purpose have not been made over to the local boards. We have made several requests to hand over these vans to us. I do not know what they are doing with these vans and where they are lying. I once more repeat the appeal to the hon. the Excise Minister and the Chief Minister and ask them to hand over the vans to the local bodies not for the purpose of propaganda but for the purpose of bringing a cartload of sand or water or mud which will be more useful in the famine affected parts.

"I have got one other grievance with regard to the general principle of prohibition. The Excise Advisory Committees formed in every district contain certain non-official members. I also happen to be one in my district. But it is a wrong policy to include the Excise officials and renters as members of these advisory committees for they are interested persons. I appeal to the hon. Minister to see that in future the officials and renters do not find a place on these advisory committees. Further, I appeal to the hon. Minister to see that the recommendations of the advisory committees are not turned down with contempt as they are done now. In saying this I believe I am voicing the feelings of several hon. Members of this House who happen to be members of such advisory committees. Often when they make some recommendations they are turned down either in toto or to a very large extent. The recommendations are made on the basis of several representations made to the committees. They usually go thoroughly into the matter and make their recommendations only after mature deliberation. When an advisory committee comes to the unanimous conclusion that such and such shops should be abolished and such and such a shop should not be located in such and such a place, it is turned down by the Excise officers. I hope the hon. the Minister will be doing a service to the country and will be enhancing his prestige if he changes the composition of the committees and sees that their recommendations are made mandatory and not merely advisory as at present. At the same time I would request the hon. Members not to indulge in expecting all kinds of hypothetical benefits that may be derived from their proposals. There is no use in expecting that the millennium will dawn at once. We will have to look at the problems facing us from a practical point of view and that will be the only quick road to a solution of them."

* Mr. P. C. Moses:—"Mr. President, Sir, the present economic depression has satisfactorily solved the question whether propagation should not precede prohibition. I have always thought that the money spent on the Propaganda Board was a sheer waste of public funds. I condemn that policy for two reasons. That the Government should encourage drinking by keeping an establishment for conducting auction sales of shops and collection of excise revenue and at the same time discourage drink by instituting propagation boards, is rather an inconsistency. I also think these propaganda boards are unnecessary because there are several missionary societies and other social welfare workers' organizations which carry on the work of educating the people on the

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evils of drink. The people drink not because they do not know the evils of drinking but because they have got a taste for it. The only way of solving this problem of drink is by legislation. If I may borrow a phrase of my hon. Friend, Mr. Premayya, I will say if you want to drive out the devil of drink from this country you must take the stick of legislation. Let the Government take courage in both hands and face the consequences that may ensue from anti-drink legislation. Let them introduce prohibition at least in one district and see whether it will not be a solution of this problem. I am for complete prohibition, but let the Government try this experiment and see the results of it. I may point out that, since the Minister for Education is also the Minister for Excise, he should arrange to teach the children the evils of drink and prepare the ground for total prohibition in the future. With regard to the location of shops, many hon. Members have spoken on it. I have seen shops located in front of school buildings and churches, thus offering a temptation to the people to step in and have a drink. These temptations must be removed. Whatever steps in the direction of prohibition may be adopted by the Government, in the initial stages the drinkers will curse the Government; but I am sure in the end the wives and children of the drinkers will bless them for the great benefit conferred on them by the policy of prohibition."

* Rao Sahib V. I. Muniswami Pillai:—" Mr. President, Sir, hitherto the Government have been relying solely or mostly on the excise revenue for running many departments of the Government. Now under the present economic conditions of the country the Government has not been able to realize its expectations. Also public opinion demands that hereafter the Government should not look to this source of revenue as before. I should like to know from the hon. the Minister for Excise whether he has taken these matters into consideration and come to any conclusion as to the future policy of the Government in the matter of excise. Some two years ago, there was a real desire on the part of Government to encourage temperance reform in this Presidency. As a result of it propaganda committees were instituted in various districts to find out whether the people were for total prohibition or not. But now without any rhyme or reason they have abolished these propaganda committees. The valuable appliances which they were using are rotting now somewhere and they are not even being used by other temperance associations doing honorary work in this country. Have the Government after spending so much money on this propaganda found out what is the opinion of the people of the country with regard to total prohibition? Recently the Government set apart Rs. 10,000 to be doled out to these propaganda committees; I do not know what has become of the amount. I heard that recently the Director of Public Health has been approaching the various temperance associations asking them to produce vouchers for the amount spent on their propaganda work during the last nine months in 1931. These are associations doing honorary work and they cannot all be expected to maintain such records as vouchers and other things. I think the Government should find out the

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real merits of the various temperance associations working on constitutional lines in this Province and afford them some facility to do better work in this respect.

" In page 17 of the Excise Administration Report for 1930–31 it is said:

> 'The department would welcome assistance from those who would welcome prohibition and with that in view desire to put an end to the licit sale of liquor, in assisting to put down the consumption of illicit liquor, by reporting such cases and by assisting the officers of the department to detect them and prevent their recurrence, but so far such assistance has not been received and the efforts of the more active opponents of liquor stop short at criticising the activities of the department.'

" With reference to the above remark I should like to know whether the Excise officers in the districts are really friendly with the temperance associations. On the other hand I know of instances where the Excise officers without working in co-operation with the temperance workers go to the extent of criticising those noble workers and institutions.

" Now coming to my district of the Nilgiris, I find from page 19 of the same report there is a fall in the consumption of beer and country spirits and increase in wines. Partial prohibition was introduced in the Nilgiris a few years ago with the object of getting it subsequently extended to the whole district. Unfortunately, the experiment did not prove a success as it was originally expected, because the middlemen came on the scene and the hill tribes were able to get any amount of drink. Further, the report says: 'The Collector brings to notice that recently a few Kotahs requested that their caste might be excluded from the scheme of prohibition.' Therefore I do not think any good will come out of partial prohibition in the Nilgiris unless the Government makes up its mind to penalize the possession of liquor by the hill tribes. This matter was brought before the hon. Minister even during the last Budget debate, but so far nothing substantial has been done. I should like to know what the hon. Minister is doing to advance the policy of prohibition, so far as the Nilgiris is concerned."

* Sriman M. G. Patnaik Mahasayo:—" Mr. President, Sir, prohibition must mean not merely the closing of all shops but also effective prevention of smuggling. Therefore a special staff will be required to see that contraband liquor is not smuggled into the prohibited area. Before introducing prohibition in any place Government will have to see whether they can find the necessary funds to pay the preventive staff. It was said that by one word of his mouth the Prophet of Arabia was able to stop drinking. I also know that Sukracharya prohibited drinking. But who can say that the advice of these people has resulted in a complete abstinence from drink by all people? No doubt, social and religious injunctions will have a greater force than legislation. But in the sphere of social and religious work, where is the need for the people asking the assistance of the Government? (Hear, hear). How can any Minister be blamed for the policy he pursues so long as the present system exists. The Minister has to do nothing but yield to the

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other portions of the Government. The Government have no doubt a moral duty to prohibit drinking, but it is to their interest also to see that they get their revenues properly for the smooth administration of the country. Here is a case of conflict of interest and duty. So long as the Government have to find a certain sum of money to run the administration and so long as this is a big source of revenue, I do not think they will be able to introduce prohibition at all.

" Of course that will be no justification. It appears to me that the only excuse that is put forward is that people will resort to contraband liquor if shops are closed. Therefore the Government seem to think 'why not we penalise drinking? we will get some money; we have prohibited drinking partially.' As a matter of fact drinking is going on still. It has become the fashion; though the Hindu religion condemns drinking, though Muhammadanism condemns it, unfortunately those who are ruling the country have not condemned it as the Hindus and Muhammadans. As it has become fashionable now-a-days to drink, very many people have taken to it. That is the reason why large quantities of wine are imported into India; the poorer people get their drink elsewhere. Unless the ruling class in India gives up drinking, I fear we cannot bring about prohibition." 5 p.m.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—" The House will now adjourn and meet again to-morrow at 11 a.m."

IV—PAPERS PLACED ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE.

1. *Letter*[a] *No.* 298, *Public, dated 22nd February* 1932.

2. *Letter*[b] *No.* 298-*A*, *Public, dated 23rd February* 1932, *containing the views of the Madras Government on the Franchise Committee's questionnaire.*

3. *The reply*[c] *of the Madras Provincial Franchise Committee to the questionnaire.*

4. *The subsequent letter* [d] *No.* 283-1, *Public, dated 22nd February* 1932.

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

[a] Printed as Appendix III on pages 78—87 infra.
[b] Printed as Appendix IV on pages 87—90 infra.
[c] Printed as Appendix V on pages 90—98 infra.
[d] Printed as Appendix VI on pages 98–99 infra.

Appendix I.

[Vide answer to question No. 994 asked by Mr. A. B. Shetty at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 11th March 1932, page 21 supra.]

District. (1)	Number of motor-cars in use at the end of 1931. (2)	Number of cars plying for hire at the end of 1931. (3)	Number of buses plying for hire at the end of 1931. (4)	Number of accidents. 1930. (5)	Number of accidents. 1931. (6)
Madras City	About 5,200	141	511	368	396
Anantapur	39	3	65	9	1
Arcot, North	148	27	158	40	50
Arcot, South	167	5	80	6	19
Bellary	108	2	83	20	9
Chingleput	127	24	230	61	65
Chittoor	118	6	69	16	8
Coimbatore	1,904	13	342	89	97
Cuddapah ..	49	1	39	6	4
Ganjam	137	15	56	18	6
Godavari, East	579	16	296	14	7
Godavari, West	380	175	107	14	19
Guntur	208	..	97	23	16
South Kanara	216	62	168	99	55
Kistna	180	48	108	33	3
Kurnool	58	8	110	10	4
Madura	522	33	463	68	47
Malabar	637	24	559	58	108
Nellore	169	26	50	28	18
Nilgiris, The	862	17	63	23	37
Ramnad	291	13	278	21	29
Salem	548	..	284	46	41
Tanjore	501	19	152	45	33
Tinnevelly	320	23	226	31	22
Trichinopoly	505	55	161	23	25
Vizagapatam (including Agency tracts).	396	23	213	56	16
Total ..	14,369	779	4,968	1,225	1,135

Proportion of number of accidents in 1931 to those in 1930—7·3 per cent decrease.

Appendix II.

[Vide answer to question No. 996 asked by Mr. A. Pl. N. V. Nadimuthu Pillai at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 11th March 1932, page 24 supra.]

List of taluk boards the areas of which have been ordered to be split up.

Chingleput district—
- Saidapet.
- Chingleput.
- Tiruvallur.

Madura district—
- Nilakkottai.
- Usilampatti.

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List of taluk boards the areas of which it is proposed to be split up.

Districts and taluk boards.

Anantapur—
Anantapur.
Gooty.
Dharmavaram.
Penukonda.

North Arcot—
Vellore.
Ranipet.
Cheyyar.
Tiruvannamalai.
Tiruppattur.

South Arcot—
Tindivanam.
Tirukkoyilur.

Bellary—
Bellary.
Adoni.
Harpanahalli.
Hospet.

Chittoor
Chittoor.
Chendragiri.
Madanapalle.
Karvetnagar.

Coimbatore—
Coimbatore.
Erode.
Pollachi.
Gobichettipalayam.

Cuddapah.
Proddatur.
Rayachoti.
Badvel.

Ganjam—
Chicacole.
Ghoomsur.
Chatrapur.

East Godavari—
Rajahmundry.
Pithapur.

Districts and taluk boards.

West Godavari—
Ellore.
Tanuku.

Guntur—
Narasaraopet.

Kistna—
Nuzvid.

Kurnool—
Dhone.
Nandyal.
Koilkuntla.
Markapur.

Malabar—
Calicut.

Nellore—
Atmakur.
Gudur.
Kanigiri.
Venkatagiri.

Ramnad—
Ramnad.
Sivaganga.
Devakottai.
Sivakasi.

Salem—
Salem.
Hosur.
Dharmapuri.
Sankari.
Namakkal.

Tanjore—
Mayavaram.
Pattukkottai.

Tinnevelly—
Koilpatti.
Sermadevi.
Tinnevelly.
Tuticorin.

Vizagapatam—
Narasapatam.
Vizagapatam.
Parvatipur.

Appendix III.

[Vide Item IV—Papers placed on the Table of the House—page 75 supra.]

Letter from T. G. Rutherford, Esq., c.i.e., I.C.S., Additional Secretary to the Government of Madras, Public (Franchise) Department, to the Secretary, Indian Franchise Committee, Camp India, dated Fort St. George, the 22nd February 1932, No. 298.

[Franchise Committee Questionnaire—Views of the Government of Madras.]

I am directed to forward to you a copy of the Madras Provincial Franchise Committee's replies to the questionnaire issued by the Franchise Committee together with the views of the Government of Madras on extention of the franchise, women's suffrage and other matters referred to in the questionnaire and also on the question as to whether there should be a second chamber in the provincial legislature.

2. I am to state that the questionnaire and the recommendations of the Provincial Committee have been considered by His Excellency the Governor with his Executive Council and Ministers sitting together and that the views expressed in this letter are the views of the Government as a whole.

3. *Question* 3 (*c*)—*Administrative possibility of an electorate comprising* 10 *per cent of the population.*—The Madras Government consider that such an electorate and all the arrangements for the preparation, maintenance, and revision of the rolls, and for polling and counting of votes in this Province are administratively possible.

4. *Question* 3 (*b*)—*Capacity of such an electorate to cast an intelligent vote.*—The Government consider that a large portion of the electorate that will result from the franchise necessary to give the vote to 10 per cent of the population will not at present be able to cast an intelligent vote, but as electoral rolls for the district municipalities and local boards have already been prepared which will enfranchise roughly 10 per cent of the population, it is administratively convenient to adopt the same roll for the Legislative Council. The reduction in the size of constituencies made possible through an increase in the number of elected members of the Council, and the local board and municipal elections being held on a wider franchise than has hitherto existed, are expected to quicken up the political education of the electors.

5. *Question* 1 (*e*)—*Desirability and feasibility of further extension.*—The Government are emphatically of the opinion that at present no further extension beyond such additions as may be made by lowering the franchise for Madras City as proposed by the Provincial Committee, and by providing an independent literacy qualification for men and women, is either feasible or desirable.

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6. *Franchise suggested to bring* 10 *per cent of the population on the electoral roll.*—The franchise provided by the Madras District Municipalities and Local Boards Act as last amended will as stated by the Provincial Committee give the result apparently aimed at. Extracts from those Acts to show the qualifications of electors under this proposal are appended. Short of adult suffrage it is the widest possible so long as a property qualification is retained. Briefly, the qualification is occupation of land as pattadar, inamdar, landholder, landholder's tenant, or lessee on a written lease, or assessment to any tax however small, or being an ex officer or ex soldier of His Majesty's regular forces. In the Madras City the limit of exemption from the property tax is high compared with mufussal municipalities while the profession tax is as low as Re. 1-4-0 a year. In order therefore to extend the franchise in the Madras City to the same extent as is proposed in the district and rural areas the Government agree with the Provincial Committee that the occupancy franchise should be altered from occupation as tenant of a house of not less than Rs. 60 annual rental value to occupation as *owner* or tenant of a house of not less than Rs. 18 annual value. With the addition of the independent literacy qualification which this Government is disposed to adopt, it is anticipated that the total number of persons enfranchised would be 5·38 millions or 11·5 per cent of the population. The Government agree with the Provincial Committee in thinking that the provision in the Local Boards Act by which lessees of land on a written lease are included in the electoral roll requires more precise definition with a view to prevent the manufacture of bogus leases and votes. A minimum period of three years, a minimum rent of Rs. 2 or its equivalent in kind and a minimum area of 1 acre would probably be a suitable modification.

7. *Question* 1 (*f*) *to* (*j*)—*Group representation.*—The Madras Government do not consider that the system of group representation suggested by the Franchise Sub-Committee of the Round Table Conference and in the questionnaire or as described in the literature on the subject which the Franchise Committee have been good enough to circulate in advance, is suitable for this province, and are in general agreement with the views expressed on this subject by the Provincial Committee.

8. *Question* 2 (*a*)—*Disparity in operation of franchise.*—The franchise now proposed will rectify such disparity as there is. The population of the urban areas including Madras is just under 8 per cent of the whole: the urban electors are at present 13·6 of the total electorate and under the new franchise will be about 8·4 per cent.

9. *Question* 2 (*c*)—*Property qualification.*—The Government consider that the property qualification laid down in the District Municipalities and Local Boards Acts which is based on assessment to a direct tax of some kind or occupation of property in the shape of building or land is the most suitable definition and evidence of a property qualification.

10. *Question* 2 (*d*)—*Literacy qualification.*—The Madras Government had already recommended the introduction of an independent literacy qualification in paragraph 24 of its Letter No. 978, Public Department,

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dated 11th August 1930, to the Government of India on the recommendations of the Statutory Commission. At that time it contemplated only a comparatively small extension of the franchise on a property qualification and suggested a fairly low literacy qualification. In view however of the wide extension of the franchise now agreed to, and the fact that generally speaking the vote given by the individual is representative of the family opinion, it considers that the independent literacy qualification for men at least, should be fairly high, and accordingly accepts the recommendation of the Provincial Committee that it should be the possession of a completed Secondary School-Leaving Certificate or its equivalent. As regards women the case is different. Some means has to be found other than the ordinary property qualification to increase to some extent the number of women on the electoral roll since the property laws of the country operate against their coming on the roll in sufficient numbers as compared with men and the Government agree that in their case the literacy qualification may be ability to read and write, the qualification of women claiming to be registered on this qualification to be certified to by some such method as the certificate of a village magistrate or other magistrate as to her ability to read and write on her own written application to be included on the roll.

11. *Question* 2 (*e*)—*Military qualification.*—The Madras Government consider that an extension of the present military qualification to include service in the Auxiliary and Territorial Forces is unnecessary.

12. *Question* 3 (*a*)—*Women's suffrage.*—The Government agree with the view of the Provincial Committee that it is not desirable to give the vote to the wives or widows (not otherwise qualified) of male electors qualified by property. The reduced property qualification and the low literacy qualification proposed will bring on to the electoral roll in the neighbourhood of 900,000 women as compared with the present 128,000 and it should be seen how far these will exercise their electoral rights before proposals for further increasing the proportion of women on the roll are accepted.

13. *Question* 3 (*b*)—*Group system for women.*—The Government have expressed their opinion on the suggested group system in paragraph 7 of this letter.

14. *Question* 3 (*c*)—*Representation of women on the Legislative Council.*—The Government are opposed to the suggestion that women members should be co-opted by the Legislative Council, but are not in favour of the Provincial Committee's proposals for reserved seats in urban areas. They agree that representation should be secured but consider that a simpler and better method than reservation of seats would be as follows. A fixed number of seats should be reserved in the Council for women: women should be allowed as at present in this Province to stand for any constituency for which they are qualified to stand and unsuccessful women candidates up to the number so reserved obtaining the highest percentage of votes to the number of electors on the electoral roll in the constituency for which they stand, should be declared elected to the seats reserved for women, provided that they have obtained

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sufficient votes not to forfeit their deposits. Women who top the poll in any constituency and win a seat outright would come into the Council as ordinary members and would be additional to those filling the seats reserved for women. If on the other hand the number of women candidates was insufficient to fill the quota of reserved seats, no further steps to fill the quota should be taken, whether by nomination or otherwise.

15. *Question* 4—*Representation of depressed classes.*—The Government adhere to the views already expressed by them previously in paragraph 20 of their Memorandum to the Statutory Commission and in paragraph 12 of their Letter No. 978, dated 11th August 1930, to the Government of India on the recommendations of the Commission. They agree with the Provincial Committee that without separate electorates the depressed classes cannot get representatives of their own choice.

As regards the definition of depressed classes the Government consider that the definition of the term Adi-Dravidas as given in clause 3 (1) of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, would be suitable. Under this section a supplemental list of communities has been notified by the Government in G.O. No. 1541, L. & M., dated 7th May 1931, of which a copy is appended together with an extract from the Act. The Government propose that a similar list should be issued in respect of the separate electorates for the Legislative Council. This would cover all those known or hitherto regarded as 'untouchables' and the Government consider that only such communities should be included in the category of 'Depressed classes' for special treatment. The Government do not consider it desirable to apply the group system to the depressed classes. It is estimated that the lower franchise will bring on to the rolls about 300,000 depressed class electors which will be about 8·4 per cent of their total adult population.

16. *Question* 5—*Representation of labour.*—Subject to the proviso that the qualifying period should be not less than one year's continuous employment, the Government accept the recommendation of the Provincial Franchise Committee for the formation of special labour constituencies to bring the voice of labour into the Council in preference to making registered unions the constituency or constituencies as was proposed by the Whitley Commission. The ground for their opinion is the backward state of labour organization in the province and the way the unions are organized for the employees of particular firms or corporations.

17. *Question* 5-*A*—*Representation of special interests.*—The Government are of opinion that as at present Landholders, European Trade and Commerce, Planting, Indian Trade and Commerce and the Universities should have representation secured to them and that Labour be added as a special interest. They agree with the Provincial Committee's suggestion that the Madras Trades Association should be merged with the Chamber of Commerce for the purpose of forming a European Trade and Commerce constituency.

18. *Question* 6 (*a*)—*Method of election to the Upper Chamber—Federal Legislature.*—The majority of the Government are not in favour

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of the proposal of the Federal Structure Committee. They prefer direct election by a limited electorate of qualifications calculated to ensure the inclusion therein of persons of wealth, education and administrative experience not only in local bodies and the legislatures, but in the public services of the country, such as, ex judges, ex collectors and retired officials of similar standing, and the method of election should be by proportional representation by the single transferable vote as is at present the practice for the Council of State. With the increased representation proposed to be given to Madras, the province can be divided up into plural constituencies of more manageable area than at present. With a limited electorate and canvassing mainly done by post, and candidates generally men of standing known to the public, the size of the constituencies is not of such importance as in the case, say, of the Provincial Legislative Council.

19. *Question* 6 (*b*)—*Franchise qualifications for Federal Legislature.*—The suggestion of the Provincial Franchise Committee that for the Lower Chamber of Federal Legislature, the franchise qualification should be lowered so as to double the number of electors at present on the rolls for the Legislative Assembly is acceptable to Government. So also their proposal that the electorate for the Upper Chamber should be one similar to that at present existing for the Council of State supplemented by a provision for the inclusion of ex officials of fairly high standing.

20. *Question* 6 (*c*)—*Election to Federal Lower Chamber.*—The majority of the Government agree with the majority of the members of the Federal Structure Committee that election to the Lower Chamber of the Federal Legislature should be by territorial constituencies consisting of qualified voters who would cast their vote directly for the candidates of their choice, which is also the view of the Provincial Franchise Committee.

21. *Question* 7—*Representation of women, etc., in the Federal Legislature.*—Disagreeing with the Provincial Committee, the Government do not consider that there is any proper ground or necessity for securing specially the representation of women in the Upper Chamber. Only representation of Muslims and Europeans needs to be secured. In the Lower Chamber the interests which should be secured representation are Landholders, Indian Commerce, Women and Labour, and the communities for whom special provision is required to secure adequate representation are Muslims, Depressed Classes, Europeans and Indian Christians. No special provision for the representation of European Commerce is suggested as it is considered that the proposed representation of Europeans as a community will cover their commercial interests.

22. The provisional views of the Madras Government as to the size of the Legislative Council and the qualifications of candidates which have been asked for by the Chairman of the Franchise Committee will be forwarded shortly. As regards the question of a Second Chamber in the Provincial Legislature, the Government as at present constituted are of opinion that, in view of the fact that the franchise for the Council is proposed to be very greatly extended, there should be a Second Chamber

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which would act as an effective check on ill-considered and hasty legislation; the ideas of Government as to the details of the composition of the Second Chamber will be forwarded later.

APPENDIX

I

PRESENT QUALIFICATIONS FOR MADRAS CITY ELECTORATE—LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Extract from the Madras Electoral Rules.

4. *Urban Madras City constituency.*—A person shall be qualified as an elector for a Madras City constituency who—

(*a*) was assessed in the previous year to property-tax or tax on companies or profession tax; or

(*b*) occupied for not less than six months in the previous year a house in the City, not being a house in any military or police line, of an annual value of not less than Rs. 60; or

(*c*) was assessed in the previous year to income-tax; or

(*d*) is a retired, pensioned or discharged officer, non-commissioned officer or soldier of His Majesty's regular forces.

Explanation.—No person shall be deemed to occupy a house within the meaning of clause (*b*) unless he is paying or is liable to pay to the owner the rent thereof, or is exempt from the payment of rent by virtue of any office, service or employment; nor shall more than one person be qualified as an elector in respect of the same house.

II

Extract from the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920.

45. *Qualifications for voting.*—(1) No person shall be included in the electoral roll as qualified to vote unless—

(*a*) he is a British subject or a subject of a State in India:

Provided that the Local Government may exclude from the scope of this restriction any alien or class of aliens;

(*b*) he has attained the age of twenty-one years in the year preceding that in which the electoral roll is published;

(*c*) he has been assessed in such preceding year to any tax payable to the Government of India or to the Local Government or to any local authority in the Presidency of Madras or is a retired, pensioned or discharged officer, non-commissioned officer or soldier of His Majesty's regular forces; and

(*d*) he has resided in the municipality for one hundred and twenty days in the aggregate in such preceding year.

(2) If a company or association or the members of a family jointly or joint pattadars has or have been assessed to any tax, the company or association or the family or joint pattadars shall be treated as

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possessing the qualification, and the person entitled to be registered in the electoral roll shall be the secretary of the company or association or some other person duly authorized in that behalf or the member authorized by a majority of the family or of the joint pattadars, or, in the case of a joint Hindu family either a member so authorized or in default of such authorization, the manager thereof.

(3) A person may be qualified either in his personal capacity or in the capacity of a representative of a company or association or of a joint family or of joint pattadars, but not in both capacities.

(4) Save as provided in sub-section (2), no person shall be qualified as an elector unless he possesses the necessary qualifications in his personal capacity.

46. (Omitted.)

47. *Disqualifications of voters.*—Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (5) of section 44, a person who is of unsound mind, a deaf-mute or a leper shall not be entitled to vote at any election to a municipal council.

III

Extract from the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920.

52. *General qualifications for registration.*—No person shall be included in the electoral roll (of a local board) as qualified to vote unless—

(*a*) he is a British subject or a subject of a State in India:

Provided that the Local Government may exclude from the scope of this restriction any alien or class of aliens;

(*b*) he has attained the age of twenty-one years in the year, preceding that in which the electoral roll is published;

(*c*) he possesses one or more of the qualifications described in Schedule III (annexed);

(*d*) in the case of a district or taluk board, he has resided for one hundred and twenty days in the aggregate in such preceding year in the district or taluk or in a municipality (including the City of Madras) or cantonment, situated within three miles of the district or taluk:

Provided that in the case of persons whose sole residential qualification consists in their residence in any such municipality or cantonment, their being assessed to a tax payable to a municipal or cantonment authority shall not be deemed to be a qualification within the meaning of this clause; and

(*e*) in the case of a panchayat, he has resided in the village for one hundred and twenty days in aggregate in such preceding year.

53. *Disqualifications of voters.*—Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (5) of section 51, a person who is of unsound mind, a deaf-mute or a leper, shall not be entitled to vote at any election to a local board.

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Schedule III.

Electoral Qualifications.

[See section 52 (*c*).]

Local Board Electors.

1. A person shall be qualified as an elector of a district board, taluk board or panchayat who—

(*a*) was in the previous year assessed to any tax payable to the Government of India or to the Local Government or to any local authority in the Presidency of Madras; or

(*b*) is registered as a ryotwari pattadar, or as an inamdar, of land in the district, taluk or village, as the case may be; or

(*c*) holds land in the district, taluk or village on a written lease or demise, under a ryotwari pattadar or an inamdar or any tenant under such pattadar or inamdar; or

(*d*) is registered jointly with the proprietor under section 14 of the Malabar Land Registration Act, 1895, as the occupant of land in the district, taluk or village; or

(*e*) holds an estate in the district, taluk or village as a landholder as defined in the Madras Estates Land Act, 1908; or

(*f*) holds land in the district, taluk or village as ryot or as tenant under a landholder, as defined in the Madras Estates Land Act, 1908; or

(*g*) is a retired, pensioned, or discharged officer, non-commissioned officer or soldier of His Majesty's regular forces.

2. (Omitted.)

General.

3. If property is held by, or tax is assessed upon, a company or association, or the members of a family jointly, or joint pattadars, the company or association or the family or joint pattadars shall be treated as possessing the qualification, and the person entitled to be registered in the electoral roll shall be the secretary of the company or association or some person duly authorized in that behalf or the member authorized by a majority of the family or of the joint pattadars, or, in the case of a joint Hindu family, either a member so authorized or, in default of such authorization, the manager thereof.

4. A person may be qualified either in his personal capacity or in the capacity of a representative of a company or association or of a joint family or of joint pattadars, but not in both capacities.

5. Save as provided in rule 3, no person shall be qualified as an elector unless he possesses the prescribed qualifications in his personal capacity.

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IV

G.O. No. 1541, *L. & M., dated 7th May* 1931.

[Rule—Madras Local Boards and Madras District Municipalities Acts, 1920—Definition of the term ' Adi-Dravida '—Confirmed.]

* * * *

The appended notifications will be published in English in the *Fort St. George Gazette* and in all District Gazettes in English and in the vernacular language or languages of the district concerned.

NOTIFICATIONS.

(i)

In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (1) of section 3 and clause (*a*) of sub-section (2) of section 199 of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920 (Madras Act XIV of 1920), the Governor acting with Ministers is hereby pleased to make the following rule prescribing the communities which in addition to those mentioned in clause (1) of section 3 of the said Act shall be included in the ' Adi-Dravida ' community for the purposes of the said Act:—

RULE.

Any person professing the Hindu religion and belonging to any of the communities mentioned in the schedule annexed hereto shall be an Adi-Dravida within the meaning of clause (1) of section 3 of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920.

Schedule.

Bairas.	Koragas.	Pambadas.
Bakudas.	Madaris.	Paravans (Parawans).
Bavuris.	Mailas.	Raneyars.
Bellaras.	Mogers (Mera or Kaipudas or Mogeras).	Rellis.
Chalavadis.	Mundalas.	Semmans.
Goddas.	Nalkedayas.	Vettuvans.
Haddis.	Nayadis.	
Kanakkans.		

(ii)

In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (1) of section 3 and clause (*a*) of sub-section (2) of section 303 of the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920 (Madras Act V of 1920), the Governor acting with Ministers is hereby pleased to make the following rule prescribing the communities which in addition to those mentioned in clause (1) of section 3 of the said Act shall be included in the ' Adi-Dravida ' community for the purposes of the said Act:—

RULE.

Any person professing the Hindu religion and belonging to any of the communities mentioned in the schedule annexed hereto shall be an Adi-Dravida within the meaning of clause (1) of section 3 of the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920.

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Schedule.

Bairas.	Koragas.	Pambadas.
Bakudas.	Madaris.	Paravans (Parawans).
Bavuris.	Mailas.	Raneyars.
Bellaras.	Mogers (Mera or Kaipu-das or Mogeras).	Rellis.
Chalavadis.	Mundalas.	Semmans.
Goddas.	Nalkedayas.	Vettuvans.
Haddis.	Nayadis.	
Kanakkans.		

V

Extract from the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920.

PART I.

Chapter I—Preliminary.

* * * *

3. In this Act unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context—

(1) 'Adi-Dravida' means any person professing the Hindu religion and belonging to any of the following communities, namely, the Paraiyans, Pallans, Valluvans, Malas, Madigas, Chakkiliyans, Tottiyans, Cherumans and Holeyas, or to any other community that may be prescribed.

* * * *

APPENDIX IV.

[Vide Item IV—Papers placed on the Table of the House—page 75 supra.]

Letter from T. G. RUTHERFORD, Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S., Additional Secretary to the Government of Madras, Public (Franchise) Department, to the Secretary, Indian Franchise Committee, Camp India, dated Fort St. George, the 23rd February 1932, No. 298-A.

[*Reference.*—Continuation of my Letter No. 298, Public, dated 22nd February 1932.]

I am directed to communicate to you the views of the Madras Government on the following subjects.

2. *Question 2 (b)—Methods of adjusting the franchise so that voting strength of communities is proportional to population strength.*—If separate electorates are retained, differences of proportion of voting strength on the electoral rolls to population in the various communities are in the opinion of the Government immaterial. If separate electorates are not retained, and if joint electorates with or without reservation of seats are adopted with a general electorate of about 10 per cent of the population the voting strength of the minority communities would still be so small in most constituencies that nothing

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short of adult suffrage in favour of the minority communities only would so strengthen their position as to enable them to get candidates of their own choice elected if their election was seriously opposed by the Hindu majority community. It is believed that in the case of Muhammadans and Indian Christians the franchise proposed will result in the numbers of electors from these communities being nearly proportional to their population strength. In the case of the depressed classes the Government have recommended separate electorates for them and agree with the recommendation of the Provincial Franchise Committee that they should also have a vote in the general non-Muhammadan constituencies in order to prevent a permanent gulf being fixed between the communities and to provide a starting point for the eventual abolition of separate electorates for depressed classes. This proposal will tend to equalize their voting strength in proportion to population with that of other communities. It has already been stated in the previous letter that about 300,000 of the depressed classes will come on to the electoral roll if the low franchise for the local boards and district municipalities is adopted. Their population is 7·1 millions and the proposal is tantamount to giving them 600,000 votes or a little over 8 per cent of their population strength.

3. The Government are of the opinion that the size of the Provincial Legislative Council should be 210 with the following composition:—

Communities—	
Non-Muhammadans	126
Muhammadans	21
Indian Christians	9
Depressed classes	18
Europeans	3
Anglo-Indians	2
Special Interests—	
Women	8
Landholders	12
Universities	1
Labour	2
Planting	2
Europeans Trade and Commerce	3
Indian Trade and Commerce	3

Indian Trade and Commerce includes two seats for the South Indian Chamber of Commerce and one for the Nattukottai Nagarathars Association.

It will be seen that their proposals differ in some respects from those of the Provincial Committee. They consider that a strength of 25 members for depressed classes is too large having regard to the difficulties of getting suitable candidates and the fact that it is proposed to give them votes in the non-Muhammadan general electorates. It may be mentioned that in connexion with the reservation of seats for the depressed classes in the municipalities and local boards the number

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adopted was a minimum of one per local body and a total membership roughly proportionate to half their population strength. The 25 seats proposed by the Provincial Committee in a House of 220 amounts to giving them representation according to full population strength. The Muhammadans on population strength should only have about 12 members but have had, since the introduction of the reformed Council, considerable weightage allowed. In the present Council they have 13 out of a total of 132 members and the strength now proposed to be given to them is one-tenth of the total strength of 210. As regards the representation of Indian-Christians the eleven seats proposed by the Provincial Committee is excessive and much higher than their present five members out of 132 would warrant. As regards Europeans, Anglo-Indians, Landholders, Universities, Planting, Trade and Commerce, both European and Indian, Government have accepted the Committee's proposals. Europeans have been given one more than they would proportionately be entitled to in view of the effect on the European element in the Council by the abolition of the official 'bloc.' The non-Muhammadan seats have been fixed having regard to the desirability of making the revenue division, or where the population is very heavy. a portion thereof, a single member constituency.

4. *Qualifications of candidates for Legislative Council.*—Government are of the opinion that for general constituencies there need be no change in the present electoral rules.

The Universities constituency.—They consider that the candidate should be a member or ex-member of the Senate of one of the Universities in the Province.

The Landholders' constituencies.—They accept the Provincial Committee's proposal that the candidate should be registered as an elector in *any* landholders' constituency within the Province. At present he has to be registered in the constituency he is standing for.

For Labour constituencies Government are unable to accept the Provincial Committee's proposal which will allow too much scope for the "carpet bagger" and professional labour politician. They consider that candidates should be registered on the electoral roll of any labour constituency within the Province.

As regards women's seats the Provincial Committee's proposal goes hand in hand with their idea of reserved seats in urban areas, not necessarily the whole of the constituency, and the electors of all general electorates within that area forming the electorate for women. The Government have proposed an entirely different system for securing the representation of women in the Council and consider that women should be under the same rules for candidature as men in the general constituencies.

5. *Qualifications of candidates for the Federal Lower Chamber.*—The Government agree with the Provincial Committee's recommendation that the present rules for the Legislative Assembly may be adopted with the modification that a candidate for a general constituency may be on the roll of *any* general constituency within the

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Province for the Federal Lower Chamber. At present the rule is rather a peculiar one. The candidate must either be registered on the roll of the constituency he is contesting or on that of any constituency for the Provincial Legislative Council.

6. *Qualifications of candidates for the Federal Upper Chamber.*—The Government agree with the Provincial Committee's proposal to adopt the rules at present in force for candidates for the Council of State but modified so that there shall be no sex disqualification.

7. *Disqualifications of candidates.*—The Provincial Committee's proposal to adopt the disqualification of conviction for offences as laid down in the Local Boards Act is not acceptable to Government. Government are of opinion that there need be no change in the present rules.

8. *Constitution of the Provincial Second Chamber.*—The Government consider that the strength of the Provincial Second or Upper Chamber should be about a quarter of the strength of the Provincial Lower Chamber. Some Members of the Government consider all the members of the Upper House should be elected by a limited electorate on a high franchise qualification; other favour the nomination by the Governor of a certain number of persons possessing administrative experience, the number of nominated members to be less than the number elected.

Appendix V.

[Vide Item IV—Papers placed on the Table of the House—page 75 supra.]

REPLY OF THE MADRAS PROVINCIAL FRANCHISE COMMITTEE TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE ISSUED BY THE FRANCHISE COMMITTEE.

Members of the Provincial Committee.

1. M.R.Ry. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar Avargal (*Chairman*).
2. ,, M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar Avargal.
3. ,, Diwan Bahadur J. Venkatanarayana Nayudu Garu, C.I.E.
4. ,, Daniel Thomas Avargal, M.L.C.
5. Khan Bahadur Yahya Ali Sahib Bahadur, M.L.C.
6. F. E. James, Esq., M.L.C.
7. M.R.Ry. C. Basu Dev Nayudu Garu, M.L.C.
8. ,, V. Appa Rao Garu, M.L.C., Zamindar of Mirzapuram.
9. ,, M. A. Muthiah Chettiar Avargal, M.L.C.
10. ,, K. Raman Menon Avargal, M.L.C.
11. ,, N. Siva Raj Avargal, M.L.C.
12. ,, T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar Avargal, M.L.C.
13. Mrs. Paul Appaswami.
14. C. A. Souter, Esq., I.C.S.
15. R. G. Grieve, Esq., C.I.E.
16. M.R.Ry. Rai Bahadur N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar Avargal.
17. T. G. Rutherford, Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S. (*Secretary*).

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DRAFT OF PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE'S REPLIES TO FRANCHISE COMMITTEE'S QUESTIONNAIRE.

I.—Provincial Legislatures.

1. *Extension of Franchise.*

Q. 1 (*a*).—According to figures supplied by the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards, the franchise under the recently Amended District Municipalities Act and Local Boards Act will bring to the electoral rolls a total of 4,928,655 * voters. This is approximately 10·5 per cent of the population and is the nearest approach to adult suffrage so long as some property or tax qualification is adopted. A literacy qualification for men and women not otherwise qualified, if the qualifications suggested by this Committee in the answers to 2 (*d*) and 3 (*a*) are accepted, it is estimated will produce approximately another 390,000 voters † who are not otherwise qualified. There are at present 26,248 voters on the Madras City non-Muhammadan and Muhammadan rolls and it is anticipated the Committee's proposals in reply to 2 (*a*) will raise this to approximately 60,000. The percentage of the whole roll (5·37 million) to the population would be 11·5 or 23 per cent of the adult population. This franchise will allow of an automatic and gradual expansion as village panchayats are formed.

Q. 1 (*b*).—The Committee thinks that a considerable portion of this electorate may not at present be able to cast an intelligent vote: doubt has been expressed even about the capacity of the present electorate. It is hoped however that as the franchise is the same as that for the municipal councils and local boards, the electorate will be gradually educated by experience. Some of the members of the Committee both non-official and official feel that the Statutory Commission's proposed expansion of the electorate to 10 per cent of the population endorsed by the Franchise Sub-Committee of the Round Table Conference is too great having regard to the low standard of education, political or otherwise, in this Province.

Q. 1 (*c*).—The Committee considers that such an electorate will be administratively manageable, though much larger expenditure than has been incurred in the past will be necessary. So far in this Presidency the preparation, maintenance and revision of the electoral rolls for the Legislative Council and the arrangements for conducting elections have been carried out by the Revenue Department with, for the polling of votes, some assistance from officials of other departments in the districts and a very small non-official assistance. There has been employed under the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards for the past one year a special staff for the preparation of the new electoral rolls for the Local Boards and District Municipalities and by the end of March of the present year these rolls will be final

* 396,625 urban voters. 4,532,030 rural voters.

† Women 250,000 out of 355,000. Men 140,000 out of 269,400.

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and ready for taking over for maintenance and revision. In the beginning some additional special staff will be required to prepare the final rolls for the Legislative Council on the new franchise in view of the inclusion of a large number of women and men on a literacy franchise; and the additions in Madras City due to a lower occupancy qualification. The Committee is inclined to consider that subsequently instead of the present system of triennial revision by the Revenue authorities with the employment of the special staff, that maintenance might be continuous and that it might in respect of the rural areas be made part of jamabandi or the annual settlement of the revenue accounts village by village, which is a feature of this Province, when the village officers should report all changes and corrections to the Jamabandi Officer and anybody desiring to have his name entered on the roll could come forward with a petition for the same and orders would be passed there and then. Some addition to the permanent revenue staff in the districts might be required for the maintenance of the roll. As regards polling an examination of the number of Government servants in three typical districts * (Guntur, Tanjore and Malabar) suggests that from 160 to 250 polling stations can be adequately named. It is anticipated there will be greater necessity for employing non-officials in connexion with the elections and about such employment some of the members of the Committee share the views of the Government of India expressed in paragraph 9 of their fifth Despatch on the Reforms, dated 23rd April 1919, and also those of the Simon Commission to be found in paragraph 105, Volume II of the Report. Still they consider that risks must be taken if any large expansion of the electorate is to take place. The elections under the new franchise of the amended Local Boards Act have not yet been held but it is expected there will not be any serious breakdown.

Q. 1 (*d*).—No answer is required.

Q. 1 (*e*).—The Committee does not consider it to be either practicable or desirable at present to enlarge the electoral roll still further. It considers that until education of the electors is further advanced and the administrative machine tested out for the proposed increase from 1·47 millions to 5·37 millions it would be a great mistake to enlarge the electoral roll any further either by direct franchise or by the method suggested in question 1 (*f*).

Q. 1 (*f*).—The Committee has perused the information furnished regarding the electoral system of groups and the representation of primary voters by secondary electors adopted in some of the near eastern countries and is of opinion that it is not suitable for this Province in its present stage of development. The people of this Province have

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* Number of public servants including local board employees available.

	Drawing Rs. 35 and over (1).	Number in (1) drawing Rs. 50 and over.	Number in (1) drawing Rs. 100 and over.
Guntur	1,119	469	241
Tanjore	1,822	787	343
Malabar	2,237	831	389

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become accustomed to the procedure and machinery of direct elections. Since 1870 there have been direct elections for the Municipal Councils and for Local Boards from 1884. Up to 1930 election to the District Board was indirect and by and from the members of the Taluk Board and the system was not satisfactory. Direct election to the District Board on a territorial basis was one of the chief amendments to the Local Boards Act in 1930. The history of the Legislatures is also one of development from indirect to direct election. Local Boards and Municipal elections are all based on an individual exercise of the franchise and as it is proposed to introduce the same franchise so as to include 23 per cent of the adult population it is not considered advisable further to burden the administration with the working of a complicated system of indirect adult suffrage. The great majority of the members of the public and associations who have sent in replies to the questionnaire are also against this system. If election to the Council should be indirect through secondaries, the unit for primaries should be not an artificial group but the village. Faction over Local Board elections is already rife in villages in many parts of the country and it is anticipated that election even by the village as a whole of secondary voters would stir up still more trouble in the villages. The Committee considers that the difficulties of forming satisfactory groups in villages, bringing them together to elect their secondaries or deputies, deciding of disputes as regards such elections and of finding the machinery for all these purposes would more than counterbalance any supposed advantage of the system. If elections for secondaries are not held more or less simultaneously and objections decided promptly, the final roll of secondary electors may be held up indefinitely. It is felt that however carefully the group elections may be conducted there will always be some doubt as to the genuineness of the elections. The group system complicated as it is even when applied to a homogeneous population will become greatly more complicated on account of the fact that the population in our villages is almost everywhere divided into different communities each with its own caste and communal hierarchy and discipline and also on account of the fact that it is proposed to have different communal electorates. What, however, the Committee considers the gravest objection of all is that the group system would greatly facilitate manipulation and corrupt practices both in forming the groups of primary electors and in the election of the secondaries. The comparative fewness of the number of secondaries would also expose them to corruption.

Q. 1 (*g*).—Please see reply to (*f*).

Q. 1 (*h*).—The Committee considers that it will be a retrograde step to go back to indirect voting through secondaries for all constituencies. As already pointed out in the answer to clause (*f*) the people have become accustomed to direct voting and an indirect suffrage such is this system proposes will not be appreciated.

Q. 1 (*i*) *and* (*j*).—In view of our answers to (*f*) and (*h*) no reply is necessary.

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2. *Franchise qualifications.*

Q. 2 (*a*).—The examination of the figures under the present franchise does not show any marked disparity in the operation of the franchise qualification in urban as compared with rural areas. The population of the urban areas including Madras City is just under 8 per cent of the whole, while the electors in these areas are 13·6 per cent of the total on the present roll. Although the franchise minimum property qualification of Rs. 3 taxation in municipalities and Rs. 6 in Madras City appears to be less than the Rs. 10 rural qualification, actually it normally represents a higher standard, especially if it represents profession tax. The Committee's proposals for the lowering of the qualification will, it is considered, rectify any disparity. Urban voters will be 8·4 of the whole electoral roll with some addition for literates which is not readily calculable.

Q. 2 (*b*).—The Committee is not in favour of having different qualifications for different communities in this Province. The minority communities are relatively so small, that no differentiation in franchise qualification short of adult suffrage within the communities only would benefit them materially in joint electorates and in principle differentiation seems to be undesirable. The Committee believes that as regards Muhammadans and Christians the extension of the franchise proposed will give them approximately proportionally equal voting strength with the majority community. As regards Muhammadans the Local Board electorate rolls show a voting strength of 3·6 as against a population strength of 3·8. As regards depressed classes, the figures for three districts of voters on the new local board rolls show that there will be a very considerable increase in their numbers; according to figures furnished to the Simon Commission there are only 56,800 voters on the present Legislative Council rolls who belong to the depressed classes whereas for the three average districts referred the total as per proposed franchise is 36,641. There are 25 districts in the Province plus Madras City and it is anticipated there will be about 300,000 depressed classes electors in all.

Q. 2 (*c*).—The possession or occupation of property of some kind or the assessment to tax as evidence of property or income is in the opinion of the Committee a suitable test of fitness for the franchise. It does not consider that a claim to be in receipt of any particular wages or income incapable of easy verification unless evidenced by assessment to some tax or payment of land revenue or cesses and therefore acceptable as a franchise qualification. The Committee has in reply to the question regarding labour representation recommended the formation of special electorates of certain classes of workers drawing Rs. 15 per month in wages or more, but in this particular case the claim to income can, it is believed, be checked by employers' returns under the Factory Act. The Committee has recommended the adoption of the Municipal and Local Boards property qualifications for the franchise, which are wider in scope as regards the meaning of property than the existing qualifications for the Legislative Council franchise, but is of

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opinion that the provision in the Local Boards Act by which lessees are included in the electoral roll requires more precise definition with a view to prevent the manufacture of bogus leases for the purpose of procuring the registration of electors not really qualified.

Q. 2 (*d*).—The majority of the Committee is in favour of introducing a qualification based on education independently of property and suggests for men as a standard the possession of a completed S.S.L.C. and for women ability to read and write in any language. The Committee does not consider it desirable to flood the electorate with males of a low standard of general education who have no property or taxation qualification, but as regards women it considers a low literacy standard a better method of bringing a considerably increased number of women on the rolls than dragging them on as wives or widows of male voters.

Q. 2 (*e*).—All the Committee are in favour of retaining the existing military service qualification and do not think it necessary to include service in the Auxiliary and Territorial Forces in view of their other proposals for the extension of the electorate.

3. *Women's suffrage.*

Q. 3 (*a*).—Though for the whole of India, the proportion of female to male voters is 1 to 26, in Madras it is 1 to 10 already. The Committee is not in favour of increasing the number of women voters by enfranchising women merely because they are wives or widows of men who are or have been entitled to vote under the property qualification, but a majority of the Committee is in favour of a low educational qualification for women aged 21 and over in addition to and independent of the ordinary property qualifications. It is expected that if their proposals for widening the franchise are accepted the probable number of women to be enfranchised will be at least 900,000. The Committee consider that to bring wives of male electors on to the roll would at present in the majority of cases merely mean increasing the husband's vote and also that a very large number of the women would not use their vote at all and the rolls would merely be swollen to the embarrassment of the Government and of candidates for election without any practical benefit. The advance now proposed coupled with provisions to ensure the representation of women by women in the Legislative Council is considered sufficient for the present. It is estimated on the basis of the number of girls in schools reading up to the V class that for some considerable time the literacy qualification for women will add at least 25,000 electors a year.

Q. 3 (*b*).—The Committee is entirely against the proposed system of group representation for reasons already given and does not think it will be any more suitable for women than for men.

Q. 3 (*c*).—The Committee is definitely against co-option by the Legislative Council. It prefers the setting apart for women of seats in selected urban areas, the electorate for the purpose in each such area being the electors belonging to that area on the rolls of all the general constituencies.

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4. *Representation of the Depressed Classes.*

Q. 4. It is anticipated that the proposed widening of the franchise would bring on to the rolls about 300,000 voters of the depressed classes as against the present 58,000. The Committee is unanimously of opinion that even with the increased number of voters the depressed classes will not be able to secure election without special protection. If this special protection takes the form of reservation of seats in joint electorates the majority of the Committee is of opinion that they will not be able to secure representatives of their own choice. The majority of the Committee therefore think that the depressed classes should be formed into a separate electorate and elect their own representatives, and in addition is also inclined to suggest as a special case in order to prevent perpetuation of a communal separation that they should have a vote in the general electorate as well so that as their present disabilities disappear their special representation may be reduced and eventually disappear altogether. As the depressed classes are generally resident in cheris apart from the rest of the villagers, the group system of representation if tired at all could be most easily applied to them, but the Committee prefer the method of direct choice by an electorate which has the same qualifications as the rest of the electors in the country. The definition of Adi-Dravida in the Local Boards Act as supplemented by the notification in G.O. No. 1541, L. & M., dated 7th May 1931, sufficiently covers, in the opinion of the Committee, those who are the depressed classes. It covers all the sections and sub-sections of the untouchables.

5. *Representation of Labour.*

Q. 5.—The Committee consider that as employers are represented in special interest constituencies, such as the Chambers of Commerce, it is desirable that labour should also have an opportunity to make its voice heard and should be treated as a special interest. Though the idea of making registered labour unions the constituency is tempting, the Committee consider that in Madras Province at least the unions so far organized and registered are too much based on individual works or factories to be really representative of industrial labour as a whole, and further that their development at present is such that the railway unions would swamp the others and monopolise the representation. It is further doubted whether prospective candidates would be really representatives of labour. The Committee prefers to give representation to Labour by forming labour constituencies in special selected centres of industrial population, the qualification for franchise being the receipt of a minimum monthly wage of Rs. 15 and being a worker in a factory coming within the purview of the Indian Factories Act in the selected areas. The Committee consider that as certain returns have to be made under the Factories Act by the employers the preparation of an electoral roll of this kind would not be difficult. In the case of unorganized labour such as agriculture and plantation, the Committee considers that no special representation is required *qua* labour. A great bulk of the agricultural labour is part-time and the

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labourers have themselves small interests in land and on the lower franchise now proposed would come on to the electoral roll. Their interests are not generally dissimilar from those of their employers. The depressed classes form perhaps the biggest section of agricultural labour and adequate measures for their representation are already suggested. Plantation labour also is practically entirely drawn from the depressed classes and as much of it floats back and from the villages its organization as a special interest would be difficult.

5 (A). *Representation of Special Interests.*

Q. 5 (A).—The Committee is in favour of the retention of representation of the following special interests:—

Universities, European Trade and Commerce, Indian Trade and Commerce, Planting, Landholders, Nattukottai Nagarathars. There is no specially important mining interests within the Province requiring special representation.

The Committee is of opinion that the Madras Trades Association, a special constituency, should be merged into a European Trade and Commerce constituency in which members of both the Chamber of Commerce and the Trades Association woud have a right to be electors.

II. The Federal Legislature.

6. *Allocation of Seats to British Indian Provinces.*

Q. 6 (*a*).—The Committee does not agree with the proposal of the Federal Structure Committee, but considers that the provincial representatives to the upper chamber should be directly elected by a limited electorate of qualifications calculated to ensure the inclusion therein of persons of wealth, education, administrative experience, etc., and that the method of election should be by proportional representation by the single transferable vote. The Committee, two dissenting, was further of opinion that Muslims should be elected by a separate Muslim electorate of the same kind and that no other minority community need be specially provided for.

Q. 6 (*b*).—The Committee considers that the franchise qualifications for the federal and provincial legislatures should be different. For the federal lower chamber it is suggested that the present franchise qualification may be reduced so as to double the number of electors and that for the federal upper chamber an electorate similar to the one at present existing for the Council of State supplemented by provision for the inclusion of persons with administrative experience referred to in the answer to *Q.* 6 (*a*), such as ex-Judges, ex-Collectors and officers of similar standing.

Q. 6 (*c*).—The Committee is of opinion that election to the lower chamber of the federal legislature should continue to be by territorial constituencies consisting of qualified voters who would cast their vote directly for the candidate of their choice. With the increased number of seats proposed for Madras it is considered that at any rate for the

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non-Muhammadan seats, constituencies of one or at the most two districts may be formed. Muhammadans and Indian Christians with their separate electorates, if maintained, would be no worse off than they are at present and so far as the Committee can ascertain general opinion is in favour of direct choice of the candidate with all its attendant difficulties rather than indirect election.

7. *Representation of Women, Labour and Depressed Classes.*

Q. 7.—As regards the upper chamber, the Committee is of opinion that the only community whose representation should be safeguarded is the Muslims, and the only interest requiring special provision for its representation is that of women. As for the lower chamber, the Committee is of opinion that representation should be secured to women, labour, depressed classes, Indian Commerce, Landholders and also to Muslims, Europeans and Indian Christians.

S. MUTHIAH,
Chairman.

APPENDIX VI.

[Vide Item IV—Papers placed on the Table of the House—page 75 supra.]

Letter from T. G. RUTHERFORD, Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S., Additional Secretary to the Government of Madras, Public (Franchise) Department, to the Secretary, Indian Franchise Committee, Camp India, dated Fort St. George, the 22nd February 1932, No. 283-1.

In addition to the subjects specifically referred to in the Franchise Committee's questionnaire the Provincial Franchise Committee has also discussed

(1) whether there should be a Second Chamber or not in the Provincial Legislature,

(2) the qualifications for candidates for the Provincial and Federal Legislatures,

(3) the size of the Provincial Legislative Council, the Chairman of your Committee having intimated that these matters will probably be discussed with it and the Provincial Government.

2. In regard to the Second Chamber the majority of the Committee were against a Second Chamber for the Provincial Legislature.

3. In regard to qualifications for candidates the recommendations of the Committee are as follows:—

General electorate, Planting, South Indian Chamber of Commerce, Nattukottai Nagarathars' Association—No change in present rules.

For Universities seat, candidates to be on the roll of any electorate, general or special.

For landholders constituencies, candidates to be registered in the electoral roll of *any* landholders' constituency within the Province.

For Labour constituencies, candidates to be registered on the roll of *any* electorate within the Province.

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For women's seats, any women registered on *any* electorate within the Province may be a candidate.

For European Trade and Commerce, no change except that the present separate rolls of the Madras Chamber of Commerce and Madras Trades' Association should be combined into one electoral roll and the candidates shall be registered as an elector on that roll.

Federal Lower Chamber.—No change is recommended in the present rules for the Legislative Assembly elections except that a candidate should be on the electoral roll of any general constituency within the province of the Federal Lower Chamber.

Federal Upper Chamber.—No change in the present rules for the Council of State except that there should be no sex disqualification. The candidate to be on the electoral roll of any constituency of the Upper Chamber within the province if more than one constituency is formed.

4. *Disqualifications of candidates.*—The Committee recommends that in place of the present disqualification on account of conviction for offence in the Electoral Rules, the wording of section 55 (1) of the Madras Local Boards Act should be substituted. The section runs as follows:—

"A person who has been sentenced by a criminal court to transportation or to imprisonment for a period of more than six months for any offence other than an offence of a political character or an offence not involving moral delinquency (such sentence not having been reversed or the offence pardoned) shall be disqualified for election while undergoing sentence and for five years from the date of the expiration of the sentence."

5. The Committee's proposal for the size of the Provincial Legislative Council is 220 members, with a composition as follows:—

General.	
Non-Muhammadans	124
Muslims	21
Indian Christians	11
Depressed classes	25
Europeans	3
Anglo-Indians	2
Special interests.	
Women	10
Landholders	12
Labour	3
Universities	1
European Trade and Commerce	3
Indian Trade and Commerce	* 3
Planting	2

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